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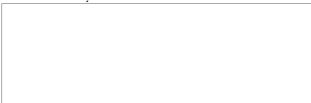


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ESSAYS ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5, Ocherki Narodnogo Khozyaystva K. Klopotov
Demokraticheskoy Respubliki V'ietnam, Moscow, 1956, pp 20-88.

For ten years already the word "Vietnam" has been constantly on the pages of newspapers and magazines over the whole world; it has resounded from the rostra of various international conferences and colloquia; it has been pronounced with affection at well-attended meetings and gatherings of workers of many countries.

The ending of the war between the French colonizers and the peoples of Vietnam, the Patet-Lao (Laos) and Khmers (Cambodia), in 1954, was the result of the heroic victories of the peoples of the Indo-China peninsula, who battled selflessly against colonial slavery and for freedom and national independence. The victory of the peoples of Indo-China was still another indication of the myopia of the imperialist circles which are ignoring the radical social and political changes taking place in Asia, an indication of the strengthening of the democratic camp.

The people of Democratic Vietnam fell enthusiastically to the task of bringing about the resurrection of the national economy and brought about further implementation of democratic transformations in the country.

As the war of resistance was going on the people took a part in power in the country. An administration for the direction of all branches of the economy was created, the financial system was revamped, and a reform in national education was put through. The first steps were taken toward the use of the natural riches of the country for the good of the people.

POOR ORIGINAL

In the liberated areas, a land reform was started, thus making concrete the centuries-old aspirations of the Vietnamese peasantry.

Victory in the struggle of the people of Vietnam for national independence was brought about by the correct policies of the Communist Party of Indo-China, which tirelessly strengthened the union of the working classes with the peasantry and rallied all the patriotic forces of the country in the United National Front.

After the war, the further consolidation of all patriotic forces in the republic in the struggle for peace, national unity, independence, and democracy proceeded.

The means of attaining these aims, which are the general aims of the nation, are the careful observation of the conditions of the Geneva Agreements and the principles enunciated by President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Ho Chi Minh, : work, thrift, respect for public property, honesty, and unselfishness.

The Workers' Party is the guiding force behind the Vietnamese people in the struggle for the aforesaid aims.

In the future lies the reunification of both parts of the country, which is temporarily divided by a demarcation line along the 17th parallel; this reunification should take place on the basis of the general elections in 1956.

Along with this, South Vietnam remains up to the present time an arena for the struggle between the French and American monopolies, which, basing themselves in the south of the country, on the one hand are attempting to hinder the democratic transformation going on in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the reunification of the country on a democratic basis, and on the other hand are fighting with each other for influence

in that important strategic area of Southeast Asia and for possession of the abundant natural resources of the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

Therefore, the struggle of the Vietnamese people for the renaissance of its national economy is inseparable from its struggle for peace and against the intrigues of the reactionary circles of South Vietnam and the imperialist powers which support them in attempting to hinder the peaceful labor of the Vietnamese people.

THE COUNTRY IN BRIEF

Vietnam, which means "southern country" in Vietnamese, occupies a territory which stretches 1,600 km from north to south, and from east to west - about 600 km in the north, 350 km in the south, and in the central section not more than 60 km. The total area of the country is an even 3,279,000 square kilometers.

On the north Vietnam borders on the Chinese People's Republic (the length of the border with the Chinese People's Republic exceeds 1,000 km.), on the west on Laos and Cambodia. The countries nearest to Vietnam are Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaya. On the east, the territory of the country is washed by the waters of the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea, on the west by the Gulf of Siam.

The relief of South and Central Vietnam is extremely mountainous. In the south of the country are to be found mainly lowlands and plains. The mountains are situated along the northern and western borders and in the interior regions of the country. The south-western part of the country is the most mountainous. Within the area of Central Vietnam the zone of the Annam mountains stretches for more than 1,000 km. The height of the mountains ranges from several hundred to thousands of meters; there are mountain masses with peaks from 2 to 3 thousand meters high.

Along the coast and in the basins of the lower courses and deltas of the largest rivers - the Red in the north and the Mekong in the south - low-lying plains are to be found. The numerous rivers of Vietnam are notable for their rapid currents, their shallowness, and the abundance of rapids.

Vietnam is situated in the tropical belt. As a result of the great extent of the country from north to south, its mountainous nature, and the presence or absence of monsoons according to the season of the year, the climate of the country varies in its different parts.

The seasons of the year in Vietnam differ principally in the amount of precipitation. On the average up to 2,000 mm. of precipitation falls in the country per year, but in individual regions up to 3,000 mm may fall. The greatest amount of precipitation falls in the period from April of May to September, during which time monsoons, accompanied by tropical downpours, blow from the southeast and southwest. In the autumn months, there are very powerful typhoons.

In the southern part of Vietnam the warmest month is April (the average temperature for the month is plus 29°). There are no sharp variations in temperature in this part of the country and in the winter months the average temperature is a mere 3-5° lower. In North Vietnam, there are greater variations in temperature - from plus 28° in July to plus 15° in January. In the mountains, at an altitude of 1,500 m and higher, the temperature sometimes falls to 0° and lower.

The torrid climate and high humidity together with the abundance of rainfall and frequent floods create favorable conditions for the growth of tropical forests. Evergreen forests, notable for their great variety of species of trees, grow in the low-lying plains and in the mountains

to a height of 1,300 m above sea level in the south and 700 m in the north of Vietnam. Higher up the evergreen species are replaced by subtropical growth and deciduous trees from the temperate climates. Bamboo and hard grasses grow on the plains of the country and palms along the shore.

The animal population in the forests and the mountain regions is made up of species native to the tropics. Water basins are rich in fish.

Red soils are most often met with in Vietnam; there is a great deal of marshland; in the river valleys there are fertile alluvial soils, in the mountains principally brown soils of low fertility.

Basalt, granite, limestone, and sandstone are located throughout the mountains of Vietnam. In the north and west of Vietnam, there are rich underground deposits of all different kinds of useful minerals.

The population of Vietnam is 23,430,000 (according to the data of 1954). 12,630,000 live in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The average density of population for the whole country is 67 people per square kilometer.

The Vietnamese comprise the chief part of the population (17 million). Aside from them, many other peoples live in Vietnam. The Muongs, who inhabit the southern part of North Vietnam and the northern part of Central Vietnam, are the nearest to the Vietnamese as far as language and culture are concerned. The Moulher peoples are represented by the Khmers (Cambodians), who live for the most part in South Vietnam. In the mountainous regions of North Vietnam and along the Laos border live peoples of the Mon and Thai groups; in the coastal areas of Central and South Vietnam, there are the Chams, a people close to the Indonesians, and a number of other peoples.

Up to 90 percent of the population lives in the rural areas and is engaged in agriculture. About 500,000 Chinese, occupied mainly with trade and crafts, live in the cities of Vietnam. After the First World War, with the development of industry, the numbers of the working class began to increase. Around 1949, there were more than 1 million workers in Vietnam.

The culture of the peoples of Vietnam is based on the Vietnamese language and a Latinized written language. The religious faiths which have held sway in the country have left their mark on the development of the country's culture. The traditional faiths of the Vietnamese are Buddhism, Confucianism, animism, and the ancestor cult.

1. Buddhism. - One of the most widespread religions of the Asian countries. It preaches reconciliation with reality and obedience to the ruling classes.

2. Confucianism. - Ethical and political teachings of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. Over the course of many centuries, it has exerted great influence on the life of Chinese society and the peoples of a number of Asian countries. At the base of this teaching is the conception of "humanity" in interrelations in society and in the family and the necessity of moral perfection. It was used by the ruling circles for the purpose of strengthening the feudal system.

Animism - Belief in the power of spirits and souls, super-natural forces acting in nature and the immaterial world. Affirms the existence of a dual nature for all elements of nature - visible images and their invisible souls.

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During the years of French rule, Catholicism became widespread. The Catholics, who number about 2.5 million, live for the most part in the provinces adjacent to North and Central Vietnam. The Catholic clergy was one of the tools of the French colonizers in strengthening the feudal system and in the oppression of the Vietnamese people.

The entire territory of the country is divided into three basic regions - Bac-bo (North Vietnam), Trun-bo (Central Vietnam), and Nam-bo (South Vietnam). These regions of the country are in turn divided into provinces, districts, towns, and communes. There are 32 provinces on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Each commune embraces several villages.

Four million people live in the cities of Vietnam, including about 380,000 people in 40 towns located on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The largest cities of Vietnam with political, economic, and cultural significance are Hanoi (pop. 350,000), Saigon, which together with its suburb Cholon has a population of 1,800,000, and the large seaport and industrial center of Haiphong (pop. 295,000).

The city of Hanoi, the ancient political, economic, and cultural center of the country and now the capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, is situated on the right bank of the Red River and possesses well-developed domestic industries, a large electric power station, a state university, and a number of scientific and educational institutions.

Saigon is located 85 km upstream from the seashore and is the principal city, as well as a chief port, of South Vietnam; it supplies Cambodia also. Industry has been little developed in the city.

The cities which are important in an economic sense in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are: Lang Son, located on the border with the Chinese People's Republic, a provincial center with rich deposits of bauxite and populated by the national minorities Mun and Tho; Hon Gai, center of a large coal-processing industry; Thai Nguyen, near which are located deposits of iron ore and coking coal; Lao Kay, located on the northwestern border of the republic and around which are located large deposits of apatite; Nam Dinh - a large city with textile factories; Thanh Hoa - center of the thickly populated province of Thanh-Hoa and one of the large centers for agricultural produce; Vinh - center of the Nghe-An province; Phu Tho - center of Phu Tho province.

During the War of Resistance a great number of cities, principally in Bak-bo and Trim-bo, were destroyed. After the cessation of military actions, the Vietnamese people set about their rehabilitation.

* * *

The history of Vietnam goes back nearly four thousand years. Until the first of the XV century, Vietnam was under the yoke of the Chinese emperors and feudal lords. However, the vassalage of Vietnam to the Chinese dynasty was preserved even later than that.

From the middle of the XIX century, there began a new stage in the enslavement of the Vietnamese people. The legendary natural riches of Indo-China and its advantageous strategic location in the area of the Indian and Pacific Oceans had long before attracted the attention of

French colonizers.

After the war from 1858 to 1862, the French colonizers increased their strength in the south of Vietnam. In the eighties of the last century they seized a considerable portion of the Indo-Chinese peninsula and united all their possessions into the Union of Indo-China. The territory of Vietnam, which became a protectorate of France, was artificially dismembered into independent administrative regions: Tonkin, which was under the administration of the French governing powers, the kingdom of Annam, and the colony of Cochinchina.

The rule of the feudal structure and foreign capital in the country, pitiless exploitation, the lack of basic democratic rights, and the impoverishment of the working masses - all this caused dissatisfaction among the people and led to the sharpening of the class struggle and the strengthening of the movement for national independence.

The national independence movement in Indo-China, a result of which was the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, inscribed some glorious pages in the history of the freedom-loving Vietnamese people.

After the First World War, the Vietnamese proletariat, under the guidance of the Communist Party of Indo-China (formed in January 1930), headed the struggle of the whole nation for the national liberation of the country. Strikes and uprisings frequently occurred in various parts of the country.

The struggle for national liberation was most highly activated during the period of the Japanese occupation of the country when the nation was laboring under a dual yoke - that of the French colonizers and that of the Japanese conquerors. During the Second World War, the Vietnamese

people frequently engaged in armed uprisings directed against the French colonizers and the Japanese imperialists.

In May 1941, the Communist Party of Indo-China united all the levels of society into a single national front - the Viet Minh.

The Communist Party of Indo-China, which was the creator and leader of the Viet Minh front, did a great deal of work in broadening and strengthening the united national front in the struggle for the independence of the country, bringing together within it the proletariat and the peasantry, the petty urban bourgeoisie, the national bourgeoisie, and patriotically inclined landlords.

The basis of the program of the Viet Minh front was the defense of the rights of men and citizens, the defense of religious freedom, the equality of nations, the equality of men and women, the recognition of the right of private property and the right to possess capital. The Communist Party of Indo-China devoted a great deal of attention to the development and strengthening of the union between the working class and the peasantry which was absolutely necessary for the creation of a firm foundation for the united national front.

This program promoted the rallying of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the Japanese occupationists and the French colonizers and its preparation for taking an active part in the general uprising.

The national front organized groups of partisans which fought along with the allies against the fascist aggressors all during the Second World War.

These partisan detachments, trained in 1941 under the leadership of the Communist Party, were rapidly transformed into a powerful force.

Starting with raids on Japanese garrisons and the destruction of stores of arms and provisions, they soon came to control a number of the provinces of the country.

In December 1944, partisan detachments in Kao-Bang, Bak-Kan, and Lang-Son united to form the Vietnamese Army of Liberation. Partisan detachments in Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Huang united to form the Army of National Liberation.

On the 9th of March 1945, the Japanese fascists carried out a revolution and seized all the establishments of the administrative apparatus of Indo-China. The Communist Party of Indo-China started a broad anti-Japanese movement for the liberation of the fatherland. The Army of Liberation and the Army of National Liberation struck powerful blows at the Japanese invaders. As early as June 1945, the Central Committee of the National front of Viet Minh had created the Liberated Regions of the country on the basis of six provinces controlled by partisan detachments - Lang Son, Kao Bang, Bak Kan, Thai Nguyen, Tuyen Kuang, and Ha Zyang. And it was in these regions that the new, revolutionary Vietnam was born. After the general elections had been held People's Committees and Committees of Liberation were created - the first organs of democratic power, a step forward on the road to the creation of a national democratic governmental system.

In August of 1945, the Communist Party of Indo-China called an All-Vietnam Conference, which adopted a resolution, later approved by the Central Committee of the Viet Minh front, concerning a general uprising and the establishment of a democratic republic in Vietnam. On 16 August, the National Congress confirmed the order of the Central Committee of the Viet Minh front on the general uprising, set the course for the domestic and foreign policies of the revolutionary government, and selected the

National Liberation Committee of Vietnam, that is, a Provisional Government with President Ho Chi Minh at its head. At the National Congress, there was adopted the political line worked out by the Communist Party of Indo-China: "Summon the masses of the people to the seizure of arms from the Japanese until such time as the Allies enter Indo-China, tear power from the hands of the Japanese and their puppets, and take firm control of power until the Allied Army appears in Indo-China to demobilize the Japanese forces."

When the news of the Japanese capitulation was spread on 16 August 1945, armed demonstrations by millions of people began all over the country. Many enterprises and institutions ceased work. Representatives of the Viet Minh front, appearing before the masses of the people, called on the Vietnamese people to overthrow the regime of the Japanese fascists. Parts of the Army of Liberation, in whose front ranks were workers' shock brigades and youth brigades headed by members of the Viet Minh front, seized great numbers of Japanese military posts. Divisions of the Bao Dai "Security Army" and the police went over to the side of people in revolt.

The Viet Minh proclaimed the creation of a Provisional Revolutionary Government, and by 19 August Hanoi and many other cities throughout the country were in the hands of the people. The puppet emperor Bao Dai was compelled to abdicate. The revolutionary power of the People was set up all over the country. On 2 September 1945, at a meeting attended by Thousands in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Favorable political conditions, both domestic and foreign, assisted the victory of the August revolution. The August revolution was successful thanks to the solidarity of the Vietnamese people in support of the

Viet Minh front, guided by the Communist Party of Indo-China, and thanks to the careful preparatory work carried out on the eve of the uprising as well as the speed and timeliness of the uprising.

The victory of the August revolution was aided by the rout of the Kwantung army by the Soviet Army in August 1945, which sealed the fate of fascist Japan and in fact liberated the peoples laboring under the yoke of Japan.

The Vietnamese August revolution was a revolution of national liberation, directed toward the freeing of the Vietnamese people from the imperialist yoke. The August revolution was democratic, since "it was directed against the Japanese fascists, the French colonizers and their hangers-on, the refugees from the reactionary landowning class, and also thanks to the fact that it was a part, although a small one, of the great struggle embracing the whole world against fascist aggression."¹

(1. Truong Shin, The August Revolution in Vietnam, Moscow, 1954, p.49.)

The August revolution created a system of people's democracy in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, a system which is radically different from bourgeois democracy, set the Vietnamese people in line with the progressive nations of the world, and destroyed, along with the yoke of the colonizers, the monarchical system which had existed in Vietnam over centuries.

In a short time, a new power apparatus was created in the country, the old tax system was revised, the percapita tax was abolished, and a redivision of the communal lands was effected.² The enterprises which had earlier been taken from the French entrepreneurs passed into the hands of the people. The life of the workers and peasants was impro-

ved and an eight hour working day was established.

(2. The communal lands belonged to the district and were intended for both the construction of market-places, schools, etc., and distribution among the peasants by means of leases; semicomunal lands belonged to a group of people or to a village.)

The August revolution had a number of weak points as well, which could not but be reflected in the later fortunes of the country. The uprising did not go on simultaneously in all parts of the country. This was especially evident in the south, where the organizations of the Viet Minh front were not sufficiently strong and cleansed of unstable elements at that time.

The Vietnamese people did not fully disarm the Japanese army before the arrival of French and English forces in Vietnam for this purpose; this fact was reflected in the length of the ensuing war with the French interventionists.

The Indo-China Bank was not seized, the revolutionary government did not take banking operations under its control. This made it possible for the French monopolies to create additional difficulties for the development of the national economy of the republic.

Besides this, the domestic forces of reaction were not completely liquidated, and this sowed dissension in the ranks of the people and cleared the way for a fresh entrance of the French interventionists, supported by the American monopolies, into Vietnam.

In September 1948, danger threatened the young republic. The monopolistic circles of France decided to reestablish their mastery in Vietnam, and on 23 September a French expeditionary force occupied Saigon and

later a number of other cities of Nam-bo. In the north, the forces of Chiang Kai-Shek, arriving in Vietnam for the purpose of disarming the Japanese forces, made an attempt to overthrow the Ho Chi Minh government.

Under these conditions, the Workers' Party pursued a policy of ensuring peace in the country, strengthening the organs of popular power, and increasing the nation's strength for the battle against foreign and domestic enemies.

The republic strove for the peaceful regularization of its relations with France. In order to avoid bloody conflicts the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was prepared to make considerable concessions and to consider the economic interests of France in Indo-China. This is clearly evidenced by the agreement with France of 6 March 1946, and the "modus vivendi" (agreement on coexistence) of 14 September 1946, signed by Ho Chi Minh.

According to these agreements, France recognized the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as an independent state with its own government, parliament, army, and financial system. France retained her economic and cultural interests in Vietnam and received the right to keep her forces in Vietnam for a specified period.

The Vietnamese government fulfilled faithfully the conditions of these agreements. However, the monopolistic circles of France, in spite of their recognition of the independence of Vietnam, did not renounce their colonizing aims and soon began to organize provocations for the purpose of creating an excuse for occupying the country. At the end of 1946, about 6 thousand Vietnamese perished in Haiphong as a result of the provocations of the French colonizers. Armed conflicts were provoked in Bak Nin. In December, after the colonizers had staged riots on the streets

of Hanoi, organizing skirmishes and raids on public buildings, the staff of the French forces delivered an ultimatum to the Vietnamese government demanding that the People's Army be disarmed as well as the security detachments of the city. The ultimatum was rejected and at 8 p.m. on 19 December 1946, the French expeditionary force began open military actions.

The peaceful respite had ended. There began a new stage in the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people in defense of their right to peace and independence. In response to the summons of the Party and the democratic government, the whole nation rose in the struggle for the preservation of the gains of the August revolution. The peoples of Pathet-Lao and Khmer rose along with the Vietnamese people in the fight for independence.

The war began under conditions unfavorable to the Vietnamese people. Famine raged in the country, the People's Army was formed only in the process of battles, and the necessary arms were lacking. For this reason, soon after the beginning of military actions, the Vietnamese people, under the guidance of the Communist Party of Indo-China and the government of the republic, began to create strong points of resistance in areas of the country which were difficult for their opponents to reach, in a short time organized the production of arms and military supplies, and devised a system for supplying the army and the population with the most essential supplies and goods. The Vietnamese people intensified the partisan war, carrying it deep into territory controlled by the enemy.

The People's Army increased and grew rapidly stronger; soon after the beginning of the struggle against the colonizers for national liberation, it was equipped with up-to-date arms, had acquired the experience necessary for carrying on military operations, and had been transformed

into a powerful regular army.

By the second half of 1947, the initiative had already passed into the hands of the People's Army of Vietnam and it itself chose the time and place for its operations.

In the course of its battles the People's Army perfected its tactical mastery, became competent in the technology of the use of equipment seized from the enemy, coordinated its operations with the activities of numerous partisan detachments in the enemy's rear, and inflicted more and more shattering blows on parts of the French expeditionary force.

In February 1954, the position of the French army in Indo-China took a sharp turn for the worse and it stood in danger of being completely routed.

In March 1954, under the pressure of public opinion, even the French government was compelled to acknowledge the hopelessness of this war.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam had emerged victorious. This was a victory of the oppressed over the oppressors, a victory of freedom over slavery. The Vietnamese people had defended the gains of the August revolution with flying colors - peace, unity, independence, and democracy. On the night of 20-21 July 1954, an agreement on the restoration of peace in Indo-China was signed in the Palace of Nations in Geneva.

* * *

In accord with the Geneva Agreement, Vietnam is temporarily divided into two parts - north of the 17th parallel is the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; to the south is the so-called "Vietnam".

Government". In July 1956, general elections of the governing organs are to be held in Vietnam for the purpose of unifying the country.

The social and political structure of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - the structure of a people's democracy - is founded on the union of the working class with the laboring peasantry.

The newspaper "Nhan Dan", the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, characterize the peculiarities of the social structure of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam thus: "Our state, a democratic republic, stands in the ranks of the countries of people's democracy."

"The character and essence of our social structure is people's democracy. Therefore, our power is the democratic power of the people, that is the working class, the peasantry, the petty bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie, fulfilled through the guidance of the working class. Our power is the power of the majority, standing for peace, national unity, independence, and democracy. Our structure is one transitional to socialism although the building of socialism in our country is still far distant." (1. "Nhan Dan", 12 January 1955).

In November 1946, after its consideration by all the people, the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was adopted; this was the first time in the history of the country that a constitution had declared the democratic rights of the people. In the Constitution, it is stated: "All power in the country belongs to the people of Vietnam, without distinction as to race, nationality, sex, property, social position, or religious creed."

In accord with the Constitution, the rights of all citizens in political, economic, and cultural relations and the rights of man and

women were made equal. Citizens of the republic were granted freedom of speech, press, assembly, and religion.

The highest organ of power is the National Assembly, which was first chosen by the people in January of 1946. The Council of Ministers, which exercises executive power in the country, is responsible to the National Assembly.

The direction of the basic sectors of the national economy is accomplished by the ministries: industry and commerce, social work and communications, agriculture and forestry, finance, and labor.

The People's Soviets in the provinces, towns, and villages, chosen by the people, have administrative committees which carry on practical work in accord with the local administration.

The state is headed by the president. On 3 March 1946, Ho Chi Minh, one of the founders of the Communist Party of Indo-China and a leader of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for the national liberation of the country, was selected as president by the National Assembly of the republic.

The Workers' Party, (Lao-Dong), formed in February 1951 on the basis of the Communist Party of Indo-China, is the vanguard of the workers and all the laboring peoples of Vietnam. This party, basing its activity on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, is the inspirer and organizer of the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the colonizers, the building of a free and independent Vietnam.

Besides the Workers' Party, there are in Vietnam the Democratic Party, made up chiefly of representatives of commercial and industrial circles, and a Socialist Party.

The trade unions are led by the General Confederation of Labor.

The United National Front of Vietnam - Lien-Viet - has a great deal of significance in the rallying of all the patriotic forces of the country regardless of class and party affiliations, political and religious convictions in the struggle for the country's freedom, for peace, the strengthening of the state and the renaissance of the economy.

The Lien-Viet was formed in 1951 on the basis of the Democratic Front in the Struggle for Independence (Viet Minh) and the National Union (Lien-Viet). The Lien-Viet is a social and political organization working under the guidance of the Workers' Party. Toward 1954, the Lien-Viet united in its ranks about 12 million workers, peasants, representatives of the intelligentsia and the national bourgeoisie, landowners, labor and youth organizations, and various religious groups which supported the Resistance Movement.

In September 1955, at the congress of the United National Front, a resolution was adopted concerning the reorganization of the Lien-Viet on a broader basis accompanied by its renaming as the Patriotic Front of Vietnam. The program of the Front adopted by the congress provides for national reunification and the struggle for peace, unity, independence, and democracy in Vietnam. The congress selected a central committee for the Front which was composed of representatives of various political parties, organizations, and nationalities and all levels of the population. President of the republic Ho Chi Minh was selected as honorary president of the Patriotic Front.

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Making an appearance at the closing session of the congress, Ho Chi Minh expressed his confidence that the broad program of the Patriotic

Front would be unanimously supported by the population of the country and would meet with the sympathy of all peace-loving peoples all over the world.

* * *

Even though not so long ago, the levels of economic development in both parts of the country were approximately equal, today the situations of the national economy in these two parts of Vietnam differ sharply from each other. Therefore, when evaluating the condition of the national economy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, it is pertinent to contrast it with the status of the national economy south of the 17th parallel.

At the present time in north of Vietnam we have peace, active rehabilitation, the rapid carrying out of a number of democratic reforms, and the solidarity of the people about its government and the Workers' Party; in the south - the further impoverishment of the masses of the people, armed conflicts between the cliques of Ngo Dinh Diem¹ and the "armies" of religious sects in a struggle for power, and the struggle between French and American capital for the key positions in the economy of South Vietnam.

(1. Ngo Dinh Diem - Prime Minister of the Bao Dai government of South Vietnam, proclaimed "head of State" in October 1955.)

Having successfully defended their independence, the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have turned their attention to peaceful constructive labor. They are building a free and happy life in the struggle for peace and reunification of the country.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS

Up until the success of the August revolution Vietnam was a backward agrarian country under the rule of feudal and colonial attitudes.

The land was concentrated in the hands of the landlords and kulaks. The overwhelming portion of the peasantry was made up of poor peasants, hired hands, and tenant farmers, who were compelled to lease land from the landlords under enslaving conditions. Agricultural technology was exceedingly backward and, in spite of the diligence of the Vietnamese peasants, the productivity of their labor was low.

Industry, mining enterprises, railroads, ports, and banks were in the hands or under the control of the French monopolies, which invested capital only on those sectors of the country's economy which brought them high returns.

While obtaining useful minerals and building in Vietnam mining enterprises or enterprises for light industry and construction materials, the French capitalists had as their aim not the satisfaction of the demands of the people but rather the gaining of large profits through the exploitation of cheap labor. The total of the profits extracted from Indo-China by the French monopolies every year, up until the Second World War, went as high as 1.5 billion francs.

The participation of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in the economic life of the country was limited mainly to commerce, domestic industries, and work in the capacity of agents for the export and import companies connected with the French monopolies. Useful minerals were processed primarily for export purposes; therefore, the metal working and power industries received very little development. Light industry and the food industry were little developed.

One could cite many examples attesting to the fact that the development of the industrial resources of Vietnam was artificially retarded to the advantage of the French monopoly interests.

Thus, Vietnam possesses extremely rich deposits of iron and coking coal, copper and bauxites, lead and zinc. At the same time, instead of using these natural riches and developing the metallurgical industry of Vietnam on the basis of them, the French monopolists preferred to import rolled ferrous and nonferrous metals from the metropolis, since this brought them large profits.

The soil in a number of regions of the country stands in need of phosphate fertilizers. Very extensive deposits of apatites in the region of Lao Kay permitted the setting up of production of high quality super-phosphates. However, the processing of apatites was carried on only to a very minor degree and superphosphates were imported to Vietnam from other countries, as a result of which the Vietnamese peasants frequently could not obtain them because of the high prices.

Only since the formation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has the national economy of the country begun to be developed in the interests of the people.

After the victory of the people's democratic system in the country, the Vietnamese people faced the task of liquidating in a short period of time the after-effects of the feudal-colonial system and creating the necessary conditions for the most rapid possible development of the industrial resources of the country. The Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the Workers' Party and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, have set about the effecting of democratic economic reforms directed toward the fulfillment of the task; however,

the War of Resistance which had begun hindered the full-scale implementation of the measures planned.

During the course of the prolonged war, the Vietnamese people suffered many deprivations. Even without this, great damage had been inflicted on the weakly developed national economy. Therefore, with the end of the war, the Vietnamese people had to organize the reestablishment of the national economy in such a way as to ensure the independence of the republic, overcome the backwardness of its national economy in as short a time as possible, and raise the standard of living of the population.

After the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements, the Workers' Party noted four special features of the domestic situation of the republic: the ending of the war and the beginning of peaceful construction, the transfer of the bases of the administrative organs from rural areas to the cities, the transition from an administration of the national economy of the republic which was splintered under wartime conditions to a centralized administration, and the temporary division of the country into two parts. These special features determined the character of the political and economic reforms realized in the republic after the war.

During the War of Resistance, all the government administrative organs, the enterprises working to supply the needs of the army and the people, and the strong points of the People's Army were dispersed throughout rural areas and forests in regions to which the enemy had difficulty in gaining access. With the end of the war and the seizure of the cities of Northern Vietnam at the end of 1954 which had previously been occupied by the enemy, there became evident the necessity of

transferring the center of gravity of organizational and economic work to the cities, broadening the participation of the proletariat in the democratic reforms in the republic, moving administrative facilities closer to the centers of the rehabilitation of industry and commerce, and activating the participation of the intelligentsia in the rehabilitation and development of the national economy and the development of education and culture.

All this did not signify any weakening of attention toward reforms in rural areas and toward the needs of the peasantry; on the contrary, it implied the strengthening of the bond between the working classes and the peasantry and the augmentation of the guiding role of the administration organs in the cities with regard to the peasantry.

Simultaneously with the concentration of the administrative organs in the cities it was necessary to liquidate the splintering in the guidance of the national economy and some dissociation in the administrative organs which had appeared during the war when liberated territories were contiguous to territories occupied by the enemy. It was necessary to centralize the administration of the country, raise the level of organizational-economic work, and strengthen the ministries and provincial organs with very highly qualified workers so that they might successfully carry out the tasks connected with the rebirth of the national economy of the republic.

The Workers' Party defined three stages of the post war work of rehabilitation. After the end of the War of Resistance it was first of all necessary to organize the administration of the economies of the cities, provide the population with an uninterrupted supply of foodstuffs and consumer goods, and rapidly carry out the most pressing work of re-

construction. At the same time, it was indispensable to establish a firm economic situation in the regions of the republic which had been evacuated by the French forces after the war in fulfillment of the Geneva agreements.

The tasks of the second stage are: the mobilization of the peasants for the accomplishment of a land reform as a basis for the development of agricultural productivity, the gradual carrying out of democratic reforms in the cities, and the development of industrial production.

At the third stage - the activation of rehabilitation work in the cities and the further development of agriculture.

The Workers' Party noted that the tasks of each of these stages are equally important for the republic, that their accomplishment should be carried out thoughtfully and without hurry, and that undervaluation of work in the cities and undervaluation of work in the rural areas are equally harmful for the country.

The first stage in the rehabilitation of the national economy was passed through in 1954. In short order, a normal life for the population and the activity of all institutions and enterprises were restored in the cities of the Haiphong region, which were given over by the expeditionary force to the Vietnamese side in May 1955 in accordance with the Geneva agreements, as well as in cities which had been taken earlier.

In 1955, the second stage was accomplished and simultaneously preparations for the execution of the third stage - the stage of constructive work - were begun. Reconstruction work, which attained particularly broad scope in 1955, was widely developed even from the middle

of 1954 in the majority of the sectors of the national economy.

For the first time in the history of Vietnam, the national economy of the country began to be developed on a planned basis. An Economic Committee, formed under the government of Democratic Vietnam, worked out together with the ministries a projected plan of rehabilitation work for 1955-1956 and at the same time commenced the working out of a five year plan for the rehabilitation and development of the national economy.

After the victory of the August revolution and the establishment of the system of people's democracy the natural resources, ore deposits, irrigation systems, railroads, ports, means of communication, and communal and other such enterprises became the property of the people as a whole. There are several economic sectors in the national economy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam: state, private capitalist, and state capitalism; a cooperative sector is beginning to be formed.

The state sector includes transport, finances, a significant part of domestic and foreign trade (the share of which in the general circulation of commodities is growing steadily), and a number of industrial enterprises and mines. Toward the beginning of 1956, the state industry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam included 21 enterprises; among these were 5 coal mines, 5 apatite mines, a factory for the production of acetylene and oxygen, a tin smelting plant, a textile mill 7 paper mills and a match factory.

The petty goods sector, which forms a great proportion of the total, consists of the holdings of peasants as well as more than 100,000 professional handicraftsmen and artisans.

The private capital sector is predominant in light industry and the food industry and in retail trade. The government of Democratic Vietnam, while strengthening and developing the state sector and restraining the exploiting tendencies of private capital, at the same time supports private industry and trade to the extent that their activity is consonant with the demands of the development of the national economy and the interests of the state and the people.

Simultaneous with this, there is a sector of state capitalism in the economy of Democratic Vietnam. At the present stage in the restoration of the nation's economy, this sector cooperates in individual instances with private capital by means of extending government credit to individual private entrepreneurs or by investing government funds in their enterprises.

The share of the state sector is growing steadily. State trade is developing actively and the foreign trade ties of Democratic Vietnam with other countries are broadening. Even by 1955, there had been begun the construction of several tens of large enterprises in the mining and processing industries, electric power stations and communal enterprises and the organization of state holdings for the production of rice and coffee and state lumber mills had been commenced.

All these activities have been aided by the help shown to Democratic Vietnam by the peoples of the camp of peace and democracy, who regard the Vietnamese people with a feeling of cordial friendship and deep respect.

In the course of the talks held in July 1955, between the government of the USSR and a government delegation from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by president Ho Chi Minh questions of economic cooperation between the USSR and Democratic Vietnam were considered.

In accordance with this understanding, the Soviet government set aside 400 million rubles for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as gratuitous aid in the reconstruction of the country's economy, including the rehabilitation and construction of 25 industrial and communal enterprises, and for the raising of the standard of living of the population. Besides this, the Soviet Union will be providing help in the preparation of Vietnamese specialists, in the conducting of geological surveys, and in the carrying out of medical and prophylactic measures.

A trade agreement concluded in July 1955 provides for the broadening of mutual trade between the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Chinese People's Republic is likewise affording a great deal of aid in the rehabilitation and development of the national economy of Democratic Vietnam. On 7 July 1955, the government of the Chinese People's Republic decided to give the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 800 million yuans gratis, designating these funds for aid to the republic in the repair and rehabilitation of railroads, river wharves, and highway bridges as well as for the rehabilitation of old and the construction of new spinning factories, tanneries, enterprises for the production of medical equipment, electrical equipment, agricultural tools, paper, and so forth. At the same time, China is granting aid to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in planning work, the training of Vietnamese workers, and the implementation of a number of measures in the fields of culture, education, and public health.

The Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Republic, and the other countries of people's democracy are affording brotherly aid to

the Vietnamese people in the healing of the wounds inflicted on the national economy by prolonged war. This aid is realized through the supplying of machines and materials.

* * *

A most important precondition for the successful development of the national economy of Democratic Vietnam is the liquidation of feudal remnants and primarily the liquidation of the feudal landlord system of landowning which has held sway in the country.

In an analysis of the condition of the national economy, one should take into account the causes which brought the agriculture of the country to the position in which it found itself before the revolution, the more so since these causes have not only been solidly preserved in the south of Vietnam up to the present time but they have been even more intensely sharpened by the merciless exploitation of the peasantry by the feudal lords and officials of Ngo Dinh Diem.

The main reason for the sad condition of the Vietnamese countryside was the fact that up until the revolution the peasantry was in slavish dependence on the landowners and French plantation owners, in whose hands were the land, trade, and the rural self-government institutions.

The landlords, who comprised only 5 percent of the general population of the country, possessed 48 percent of all the lands under grain crops. About ten percent of the land belonged to the French colonizers and one percent to the churches. Communal and semi-communal lands took up 16 percent of all the area under grain crops, but even this land was in fact disposed of also by the landlords and their agents in the local administrative organs.

Thus the peasants, who comprised 90% of the population of Vietnam, possessed only 25% of the total area under grain crops and as a result for the most part worked land which was leased from the landlords under enslaving stipulations.

Social conditions in separate parts of Vietnam were not identical. In Nam-bo the landlords, comprising only 14% of the population of that region, owned 70% of all the land. The largest land holdings (15-20 thousand hectares and up to 140 thousand hectares for some individual landowners) were concentrated in this part of the country. Besides this, 200 thousand hectares of land in the provinces of Kyk-To and Bak-Lyo belonged to the French plantation owners.

In Trun-bo there ~~was~~ was a great deal of communal land (for example, in the province of Thuye-Tien - up to 90%), but these lands, as a rule the most fertile, were leased at high rates to the peasants by the landlords.

In Bak-bo the largest landowner farms were located in the plain of the Red River delta. In the mountain regions, where the tilling of the land and the gathering of the harvest are attended by a number of difficulties, ~~the relative importance of the landlords was significantly smaller.~~ Thus, in 59 communes of the province of ~~Thai-Nguyen~~ Thai-Nguyen the landlords controlled 26% of the land, communal and semicommunal land made up 24% of the total land under grain crops, and the land of the kulaks (who also leased land ^{out} to some extent) comprised 7% of the total.

The average yearly harvest of rice and other foodstuffs (calculated in

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terms of rice) per capita in Vietnam was 337 kg. with an average consumption of 300 kg. of rice per person. However the peasant who had leased land from the landlord could count on obtaining only 150-160 kg. of rice for himself. Therefore, every year the poor peasants had no food supplies for 6-7 months and the middle peasants for 1-2 months.

The position of the peasantry was especially grievous during droughts and tropical downpours or floods, when losses of the greater part of the harvest reduced the peasants to hunger and further ruin.

The Vietnamese peasant was in constant bondage to the landlords and usurers. Not having any draft animals, agricultural implements, or seeds for ~~sowing~~ sowing, the peasant was compelled to borrow them from the landlord. The interest rate for this was exceedingly high. For 100 kg. of rice borrowed the peasant had to return 150 kg. to the landlord after the harvest. For the supplying of one buffalo during the plowing of a section of land a price of 100 kg. of rice had to be paid. The interest rate for ~~money~~ money taken on loan was 100%; in addition, the rate was doubled if payment were delayed and the interest was compounded.

Often a peasant's debt had been handed down to him from his father or his grandfather. Frequently a peasant was compelled to give to the landlord or the usurer his last bit of land in payment of a debt and thus became a hired hand or a tenant farmer.

The average rental for land in Vietnam, levied in the form of payment in kind, was 50% of the harvest gathered. And in individual regions of the country the peasants gave the landlord the first harvest of rice in its entirety. In these cases the peasants could keep only the second harvest for themselves, but since in a number of regions only one rice harvest was gathered anyway the peasants were left with vegetables. On top of this, because of climatic conditions and other factors, the peasants often could not even harvest vegetables for themselves.

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In regions where the national minorities lived, besides the rental the peasants were obliged to work a specified number of days on the land of the landlord. One should add that the peasants were assessed for a great number of different taxes: for tobacco, salt, and matches, for the support of the temples and the holding of religious festivals, for the construction of bridges and ferries, etc.

During the Japanese occupation and in the period of the War of Resistance the agriculture of Vietnam entered an even greater decline. The Japanese set the peasants to producing jute, ramie, and several other technical crops, which were exported to Japan, instead of sowing rice.

The occupation of a number of regions of the country ~~was~~ by the French colonizers during the War of Resistance also caused a significant reduction in the area of land under rice cultivation and inflicted great damage on the agriculture of those regions. In the so-called "white zones" ("white lands") around the numerous forts, blockhouses, and pillbox systems which were constructed by the French forces in a number of regions of the country, near towns and large villages and near bridges and river fords, the French usurpers not only did not allow the Vietnamese to till the land but they did not even allow them to set foot in these territories. The total area of these abandoned lands on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was more than 125 thousand hectares at the beginning of 1955.

Many villages were destroyed in the course of the War of Resistance. Thus, in 1952 the invaders burned 90 villages in the province of Ha-Dong. In the province of Vinh-Phuc in a period of only three months in 1953 more than 18,000 peasant dwellings were burned, more than 1000 various agricultural implements destroyed, and ~~more than~~ 2300 buffalo slaughtered.

The level of agricultural technology in the agriculture of Vietnam was exceedingly low. Any sort of mechanization of agricultural labor even in large plantations and fields was completely lacking. The basic tools for

cultivating the hard soils of the country were the motyga, a ~~xxx~~ primitive plow with an iron tip (plowshare), and a single-rank harrow. Therefore, for the purpose of making the plowing easier, the land was prepared for sowing, as a rule, after the fields had been flooded with water. The flooding of the rice fields (usually made up of terraces which follow the relief of the locality and are spaced 1 to 3 meters vertically from each other) was carried out exclusively by hand ~~xx~~ with the aid of scoops made of woven bamboo, or with primitive bucket chains in the form of a bamboo wheel with scoops, turned with the feet.

In connection with the grievous condition of agriculture the Communist Party of Indo-China, and later the Workers' Party and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, accounted land reform one of their primary ~~tasks~~ tasks and from the very first days of the existence of ~~the~~ Democratic Vietnam carried on a determined struggle against the arbitrary rule of the landlords in defense of the interests and rights of the Vietnamese peasantry.

In the program of the Workers' Party it ^{was} ~~is~~ pointed out that one of the basic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution was the "extirpation of the remnants of feudalism so that the tillers of the soil may possess the land".

In its significance one may equate the land reform ^{with} ~~to~~ the victory of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for national independence.

During the years of the War of Resistance the government and the Workers' Party saw clearly that the will to conquer and the courage of the Vietnamese people could not of themselves provide victory in this difficult war. The army and the people had to be supplied also in order that the enemy might be routed.

Therefore social reforms in the countryside could not be put off until better times, until the enemy had been defeated. As Ho Chi Minh said, "The rice fields are fields of battle". "These two tasks", said Ho Chi Minh of the War of Resistance and the land reform, "are closely connected. We must

execute the land reform in order to augment the strength of the people and ensure victory in the War of Resistance. We must strengthen the War of Resistance in order to assure the success of the land reform.

"The land reform, like the War of Resistance, is a great battle."

Up until 1941 the policies of the Communist Party of Indo-China in the field of agriculture were focused on the confiscation of the land of the feudal lords and the French colonizers under the ~~new~~ slogan: "The land to those who till it". After the seizure of the country by the Japanese, for the purpose of uniting all levels of the population in the struggle against the invaders, this slogan was temporarily retired and the agrarian policy was limited to the struggle for the reduction of rentals.

This agrarian policy was retained even after the August revolution. In 1946 the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued an enactment and in 1949 decrees on the obligatory reduction of rentals, on the confiscation of land from the French colonizers and Vietnamese collaborators, and on its distribution among the poorest peasantry. In May 1950 was ~~published~~ published the decree on the lowering of interest rates (on all money loans - up to 18% and on all other types of loans - up to 20% per year).

However, in a number of provinces the provisions of these decrees were not observed. Toward the middle of 1952 only 54,000 landowners, or about 5% of their total number, had obeyed the requirement of lowering rentals. The landlords and their dependents had places in the local administrative organs and public organizations of many villages and communes and so sabotaged the execution of the ~~new~~ reform. The peasants, completely dependent on the landlords who had leased them land and lent them tools, seed, and money, played a passive role in the shift in socio-economic relations in the countryside. Therefore, at the end of 1952 the Workers' Party and the government of the republic decided to commende the social reforms in the Vietnamese countryside starting with the mobilization of the masses of the peasantry

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for the struggle for the reduction of rentals and interest rates.

The experience of the first years after the publication of the decrees had shown that in order to ensure the carrying out of the land reform it was necessary to arouse in the masses of the peasantry, which had been oppressed for centuries, faith in their own powers, in the powers of the collective which was agitating for a righteous cause, for ~~the~~ an end to enslaving exploitation. It was necessary to explain patiently to the peasants the essence of class interests and prepare in this way conditions for the subsequent carrying out of the land reform.

Starting at the first of 1953 a great number of cadre party workers were sent out ~~for the organization of this movement and explanatory work among the peasants.~~ to the countryside for the organization of this movement and explanatory work among the peasants.

The economic aims of the movement were: the reduction of rentals to 25% of the harvest, the lowering of interest rates, the return by the landlords of the excess rentals received since the moment of issuance of the decree, and the confiscation of the land of Vietnamese traitors. Along with this the movement had political aims as well - the extraction of the landlords and their menials from the local administrative organs and various political organizations in the countryside.

The broad scale of this work and its well-planned organization shortly began to produce practical results. The peasantry which had been enslaved for centuries rallied for an organized struggle for its rights and became transformed into a mighty force. At the end of 1953 the government issued a law on land reform, ^{the} whose execution ^{of which} had been preceded by preparatory mobilization of peasants everywhere in the struggle for the reduction of rentals.

The Workers' Party, with the idea of abrogating the right of the landlords to the land and the transfer of this right to the peasants, as the first article of the reform law declares, again proclaimed the slogan:

"The land to those who till it".

In the law it was stipulated that the land was transferred forever and without payment to the landless peasants and those who possessed little land, tenant farmers and middle peasants, fishermen and small-scale artisans; the sizes of the portions of land were determined on the basis of the number of members of the family. Special privileges were established for veterans of the War of Liberation and members of the families of those who had perished during the struggle for the national independence of Vietnam.

note on p. 34
The law on the carrying out of the land reform provided for its differentiated execution. It was decided to confiscate the land of the colonizers and landowners who had savagely oppressed the laboring peasantry, to requisition the communal and semicomunal lands and the lands belonging to the churches, pagodas, and monasteries, and to redeem the land belonging to landowners who had participated in the resistance movement. Along with this the landlords and the members of their families kept portions of land of such a size that they could be cultivated by their own power, without their having recourse to hired labor.

It was provided by the reform law that the price of the redeemed land should be determined on the basis of the value of its average yearly ~~xx~~ production and ~~xxxxxxx~~ the amount should be paid off in payments of 1.5% yearly for ten years and after that the remaining 85%.

In Vietnam there were landlords who possessed portions of land and plantations which varied very greatly in size - from 5 hectares to 140,000 hectares. The land reform law was applied to the landowners who did not labor themselves, who did not expend the rentals received entirely for the support of their families, and who used the labor of the peasants ~~xxx~~ tenant farmers and hired hands.

In the villages of Vietnam there was a certain number of kulaks ~~xx~~ or petty landlords. The reform law was not applied to them except in those

in those cases where they leased out more land than they cultivated themselves. The portions of land which such landowners leased out to the peasants were redeemed.

In accord with the land reform law the excess land which belonged to the French plantation owners was confiscated and the land of the priests requisitioned. In 1954, after the conclusion of the Geneva agreements, it was decided to redeem the excess land from the French plantation owners and the priests.

Ex 1. (note: this note belongs on p. 33 - translator) In the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, when the land reform was being carried out the confiscation of land was looked upon as a punishment and the requisition of land as an administrative measure. In either case the owners were not reimbursed for the land.

The land reform and the preceding mobilization of the peasant masses for the struggle for the reduction of rentals were carried on in seven steps in each province.

Toward the middle of the first quarter of 1955 the work in the mobilization of the peasants for the struggle for the reduction of rentals was completed in 2075 communes¹. The land reform itself had been carried out in 735 communes by this time. In these communes all the landless peasants and those possessing little land received land.

1. There are 4500 communes in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

After the conclusion of the land reform in 59 communes of Thai-Nguyen² province the following received land:

Average amount of land per person in
the family. (square meters)

	Before the reform	After the reform	Increase or reduction in quantity of land (in percents)
Landowner family	8640	960	-89
Kulak family	2856	2712	-5
Middle peasant family	1488	2112	+14
Poor peasant family	552	1776	+220
Hired hand family	240	1752	+630

As can be seen from the table, the poor peasants and the hired hands, who comprise the greatest part of the rural population, were apportioned land to ensure that they would obtain the necessary quantity of ~~supplies~~ food-stuffs. Analogous reform results were achieved in the Phu-To, Bak-Zan, and other provinces.

In the course of the land reform draft animals and agricultural ~~impr~~ implements were likewise redistributed. If in this very province of Thai-Nguyen the poor peasants before the ~~reform~~ reform had no draft animals and there were only one plow and one harrow for each 9-10 families, after the reform every two poor peasant and hired hand families had a buffalo and a complete stock of tools for the cultivation of the land.

In two communes * Hin-Chon and Binh-Tuan (Bak-bo)-the peasants formerly plowed only 588 maus of land for themselves for the May harvest.² After the reform the area under cultivation in the peasant farms increased to 1198 maus and the crop capacity of rice rose at the same time by 50%.

2. In different parts of Vietnam various measures of area are used. In Bak-bo the measures of area are the ~~thuk~~ thuk (24 square meters), the shao (360-sq. m.), and the mau (10 shaos, or 3600 sq. m.). In Trun-bo ~~is~~ area is also measured in maus, but here equal to 5000 sq. m. In Nam-bo area is measured in hectares.

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The following ^{date} ~~date~~ will bear witness to the total scope of the work undertaken toward the beginning of 1955. In the course of the mobilization of the peasants for the struggle for the reduction of rentals, which was completed in 1955 in 15 provinces of the republic with a population of 4.3 million people and a total sown area of about 1.6 million maus, ^{there were} ~~the landlords had~~ confiscated ~~from the landlords~~ 21.5 thousand maus of land, about 5800 head of draft animals, and more than ~~25~~ 203 thousand centners of unpolished rice gathered by the landlords in excess of the rentals. 250 thousand of the poorest peasant families, or 770 thousand persons, received land, animals, and rice.

Besides that, in four provinces among those in which the land reform had been carried out by 1955 and in which live around 700 thousand peasants and are located 243 thousand maus of sown ~~land~~ area, there ^{were} ~~was~~ confiscated, requisitioned, or redeemed 91 thousand maus of land, 12 thousand head of draft animals, 63 thousand agricultural implements of various sorts, and more than 21 thousand centners of unpolished rice, all of which was distributed among 85 thousand families, or 340 thousand persons.

In the course of the reform the political activity of the peasants increased sharply; they became members of the Workers' Party as well as the Peasant Union and other political ~~ex~~ organizations in the countryside and also mutual aid societies organized by themselves.

In the above mentioned four provinces more than 2,000 poor peasants and hired hands became members of the Workers' Party and 107,000 people joined the Peasant Union organization, which is taking an active part in the democratic transformation of the countryside.

In many provinces in which the land reform has already been carried out a movement has developed greatly for the formation of peasant mutual aid groups. ^{promptly} the peasants band together for the purpose of aiding one another in carrying out work ~~promptly~~ connected with the working of the land or the gathering of the harvest. In many villages up to 90% of the peasant families

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have banded together in these groups. The mutual aid groups, founded on the principles of complete voluntariness, a just differentiation in the wages of every member of the group, and the application of the best experience of other groups, are the first germs of self-reliant collective work. The formation of these groups is a sign not only of the great social and economic changes which Democratic Vietnam is undergoing but also the shifts in the thinking of the peasants, who have for the first time received the right to a free and independent life.

The French colonizers destroyed great numbers of draft animals in the villages located in the provinces of Nin-Binh, Thai-Binh, and Ha-Nam, and at the end of the war in these villages there was only one buffalo for every 300-400 maus of land. The mutual aid groups which had been formed aided the peasants who still did not have any draft animals to sow and harvest the rice crop in 1954. Thus, in the I-Ien region, after the May rice harvest, the mutual aid groups plowed about 2500 maus of land. In Ha-Nam province the peasants who harvested only a fall harvest on their plots furnished their animals to their countrymen who were gathering the spring harvest.

In the village of Minh-Khay (Kao-Bang province) a mutual aid group plowed and sowed an abandoned piece of land, sold more than 18 centners of vegetables gathered from it, then took up chicken breeding and, using the ~~receipts~~ receipts from this, acquired four buffalo to plow the fields of those peasants who could not yet buy draft animals. Toward the end of 1954 this mutual aid group had 39,000 dongs¹ in its ~~treasury~~ treasury.

1. Dong - monetary unit of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The government supports the organization of mutual aid groups in the countryside. In 1954 the State Bank aided the peasants of 620 communes in the formation of funds for mutual aid groups in which were united 130,000 families with a total capital of 3300 tons of rice and 22.5 million dongs.

Simultaneously with the reorientation of social and economic relations

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in the ~~country~~ Vietnamese countryside the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam after the war began the execution of a number of important state measures for the improvement of agriculture.

For the purpose of aiding the peasants in increasing the area of land sown in grain the State Bank of the republic ^{supplied} ~~furnished~~ the peasants with cash loans on favorable terms. Using these means, by the beginning of 1955 21,500 peasant families had acquired more than 1300 buffalo, 2000 agricultural implements of all types, and about 1000 tons of fertilizer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has organized a special institute which is carrying on research work in the various branches of agriculture. Selection work is being organized for the purpose of selecting and ~~acclimatizing~~ acclimatizing the species of rice and cotton which are most productive under the conditions prevailing in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The use of phosphate and nitrogen fertilizers is spreading.

The first state farms for the raising of rice, cotton, coffee, and cattle are being formed. These farms will not only produce a significant quantity of agricultural goods but they will also propagandize among the peasants advanced methods of agriculture, carry on selection work and trials of different kinds of agricultural crops, ^{and} incorporate modern methods of tilling the land using technical equipment furnished the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by friendly countries.

The first two state coffee farms with a total plantation area of 3500 hectares are being formed in Nge-An and Ha-Nam provinces. At the same time a great number of cattle will be raised on these farms ~~in~~ in connection with the fact that coffee plantations demand organic fertilizers. Along with this, modern agricultural machines and mechanisms ^{for working the soil} will be used for the first time in Vietnam, ~~for working the soil.~~

All this is only the beginning of great and laborious toil for the improvement of agriculture, which has been at a low level for many long years.

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POOR ORIGINAL

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Not all the peasant families have yet been able to acquire draft animals, sometimes there is not sufficient water for the irrigation of the rice fields, and industry is still not completely filling the needs for agricultural implements. But the Vietnamese people know that these difficulties were caused by the recent war and they are confident that they will be overcome.

Along with this one should keep other difficulties also in mind. The social transformations in the countryside of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are taking place in an atmosphere of bitter class struggle, a struggle between the people, who have decided once and for all to put an end to age-old oppression and slavery, and the feudal landowners, who have for many long years enriched themselves on others' labor, on the sweat and blood of the Vietnamese peasantry.

One of the widespread ~~xx~~ weapons in the class struggle used by the feudal landowners against the peasants of the republic are attempts to hinder the execution of the land reform in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by compelling the peasants to evacuate the territory of the republic and go to South Vietnam.

There is a certain number of Catholics among the Vietnamese ~~xx~~ peasants. Shortly after the conclusion of the Geneva agreements reactionary propaganda in the south, playing on the irresponsibility of individual peasants, began to threaten the faithful with assertions that God had left the north of the country and that an atomic bomb would be dropped on the territory of Democratic Vietnam ^{to} ~~which would~~ punish the impious who did not want to follow after God to the south.

Newspapers, radio, persuasive speeches of agents provocateurs ⁵ all were pressed into service for the purpose of moving the Catholic peasants to the south. Some credulous ones gave in to this agitation and departed for the south. The state organs of the republic, observing the Geneva agreements strictly, granted the population complete freedom in choosing their places of

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residence. But in very short order many of them discovered through their own bitter experience of what sort this promised "paradise" in the south of Vietnam was. It was concentration camps in the forests of Ben-Hua and in Bun-Tao. It was the opportunity to obtain land in the jungles, where it was necessary to uproot age-old trees and cut down impassable thickets, or in the cane swamps on the border of Cambodia. Finally, it was the prospect, for young men, of hiring themselves out on the rubber plantations for work under enslaving conditions and, for the young women, of entering brothels.

By November 1954 the Paris newspaper "Liberation" was compelled to confess that thousands of deceived northerners were striving to return to their native localities. On 24 December 1954, addressing the Catholics of Vietnam, president Ho Chi Minh announced that the government would uphold the principle of freedom of religious conviction. "With regard to our Catholic citizens who have been forcibly carried off to the south," Ho Chi Minh stated in his address, "the government has obliged the local organs of administration to preserve the land and belongings of these people and return them to them just as soon as they return home."

This policy of the government is being ~~significantly~~ consistently applied. More and more peasants who have been deceived by ~~the~~ mendacious propaganda are returning to Democratic Vietnam, are receiving their belongings completely untouched, and are being apportioned land taken from the landlords during the land reform just like everybody else.

In December 1954 a group of Catholics from Kuang-Yen province (Haiphong region) spent some time in Hanoi. The members of this group told of the reactionary circles of the South who are attempting to calumniate the policies of the democratic republic. They met many inhabitants of the republic, talked with the priest Ho Tkhanh Bien, who had returned shortly before from a session of the World Peace Council, and others and became persuaded that all the assertions of the rulers of the South about the suppression of religion in

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the liberated regions, the assessing of taxes for church attendance, the fact that persons who had served formerly in the organizations of the French and Bao-Dai governments had their goods confiscated and were sent to work in the stone quarries, and the payment of three quarters of the harvest from every mau of land as a tax were lies and slanders on the people of the republic ~~xx~~ and ^{on} its government.

However, neither the attempts ~~xx~~ of the landlords to frighten the peasants with the "wrath of God" for their encroachments on the "sacred rights" of the feudal landowners, nor the attempts to assassinate the rural activists or the cadre party workers, nor the secretly installed mine on the land handed over to the poor peasant after the reform could frighten the Vietnamese peasants. In the flames of revolution and ~~xxx~~ the War of Resistance the Vietnamese people have won their right to a free life and they are fully determined to defend this right.

The people of the republic are still compelled to undergo some deprivations. Nevertheless, even ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ their not too lengthy experience in the struggle for the rehabilitation and development of the national economy is convincing all the friends of Democratic Vietnam that this struggle, with the brotherly assistance of the countries of the camp of peace and democracy, will be crowned with even greater successes in the very near future.

Let us consider the conditions of the basic sectors of the national economy and the work toward its restoration which was developed after the end of the war.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The natural resources of Vietnam create favorable conditions for the development of agriculture in the country. However, these conditions are not everywhere the same and in individual parts of the country the peasants must overcome great difficulties in assuring themselves a harvest.

The basic agricultural crop is rice, which serves as the main source of nourishment for the population and is an important export item. Rice grows on flooded fields and therefore the fertility of individual regions of the country depends primarily on the size of the water supply.

There are two great river systems in Vietnam which are the main sources of the water supply for the rice fields - the basins of the Red and Mekong rivers. The Red river has a number of tributaries, the largest among which are the Black and the Clear, or Bright, Rivers, and an exceedingly ramified delta with many arms and connecting canals (the largest are the Canal of Raids and the Bamboo Canal). The total area of this delta is 717,000 hectares. Seven million people live in Nam-bo, the most fertile area on the territory of the delta.

1. The Red River Delta is also ~~called~~ called the Tonkin Delta.

A large rice-growing region 2 million hectares in area is to be found in Nam-bo in the basin of the Mekong River, which also has a number of tributaries.

In Trun-bo there are many rivers which flow down from the mountain masses located along the western border of the country. The largest rivers in this region are the Song-Ma, the Song-Chu, and the Song-Ka; the population in the basins of these rivers is also engaged in growing rice.

In the deltas of the Red and Mekong Rivers, which carry a great quantity of fertile silt, there are to be found primarily alluvial soils favorable for rice growing and therefore these ~~xxxxx~~ two regions are the basic rice-producing

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regions of the country. Until the war Nam-bo alone, which is often called the "rice basket", exported an average of 1.5 million tons of unpolished rice¹ per year, or about half of the complete harvest. During the war the export of rice fell to 500-600 thousand tons of rice per year.

1. For example, the waters of the Red River carry from 3 to 5 kg. of silt per cubic meter.

2. One kilogram of unpolished rice ("paddy") is the equivalent of 600 grams of polished rice.

The mountainous regions of the country, which are situated principally along the western borders of Bak-bo and Trun-bo, are thickly forested. The population of these regions is engaged primarily in forestry and animal husbandry.

The plateaus Pley-Ku, Dar-LaK, Non-Tun, and Lang-Bian, with favorable conditions for animal husbandry and the raising of valuable technical crops, are located in Trun-bo at a height of 500-800 meters above sea level.

Besides rice, corn, bataty³, and manioka⁴, used as food for the population and feed for ~~various~~ animals, have great significance also.

3. A long-lived herbaceous plant with sweetish, edible tubers, rich in starch and sugar, weighing from 0.4 to 3 kg. Externally the tubers have a purple and violet coloration.

4. A plant of the ~~Wartwort~~^{Spurge} family with large tuberiform roots weighing up to 15 kg. Starch (up to 20%), nitrogeous substances, and fats are to be found in the roots. Raw the roots are poisonous, but when they have been processed (cooking, drying, roasting) the toxicity disappears.

A nourishing flour - tapioca - is ~~skinned and prepared~~ prepared from the starch obtained from the plant.

Among the technical crops the most widespread are cotton (~~not~~ north and south of Trun-bo, mountain regions of the provinces of Kan-Bang, Lang-Son, and Bak-Kan), Rubber trees (north-east Nam-bo), coffee (plateau⁵ in the south

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of Trun-bo), sugar cane (south Trun-bo and north-east Nam-bo), mulberry trees (along the rivers Song-Ha and Song-Ma in Trun-bo), as well as tobacco, rubber, jute, and coconut palms.

Animal husbandry is concentrated in the mountainous regions of the country and on the vast plateaus of Bak-bo and Trun-bo. Large animals are raised in Vietnam - buffalo and bulls (zebras) used as draft animals.

The peasants raise swine and fowl, as a rule, for their personal use, particularly in the Red and Mekong Deltas.

There are many fruit plantations in the country on which are cultivated bananas, oranges, tangerines, pineapples, and papayas¹. Fish abound in the rivers and in the seas which wash the shores of Vietnam.

1. Papaya - *Pawpaw* tree, a palm with large edible fruit.

The differing agricultural conditions in the separate parts of the country and the various social and economic conditions determine the differences in the cultivation and productivity of agricultural crops in Bak-bo, Trun-bo, and Nam-bo.

Let us consider the special features of the raising of the basic agricultural crops scattered over the country.

Italics.

Rice seedlings are set out on fields which have been flooded with water to a depth of from 6 to 20 cm. Only rarely is rice ever planted on dry fields. In a number of regions in the country two rice harvests are gathered, which it is customary to call the fifth month harvest and the tenth month harvest.²

~~xxxxxxx of rice are divided by crop capacity~~

2. Two calendars are in force in Vietnam: the calendar in general use and the lunar calendar. The difference between them in calculations changes every year. In 1955, for example, the lunar calendar was running 21 days behind the calendar in general use. The times for the rice harvest are determined by the lunar calendar. The fifth month harvest is gathered in May-June and in the tenth month harvest in October-November.

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All the kinds of rice are divided according to their crop capacity into fifth month rice and tenth month rice. In turn, tenth month rice is subdivided according to its growing period into early rice, which is raised on low-lying fields, and the so-called seasonal rice, which takes a longer time to mature. Besides these types of rice ~~many~~ kinds with a shorter growing period are used, as for example Nan'nin rice, brought in recently from China, third month rice, or the type "Bazyan", and also rare fragrant rices, which are raised for export. Several thousand kinds of rice are cultivated in the south of the country.

In spite of long years of experience in raising rice in Vietnam rice selection has never been carried out; this has exerted a negative influence on its productivity.

There are several categories of rice fields in connection with the differences in soil and climatic conditions in separate parts of the country.

The following categories of fields are distinguished in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam:

1. Fields located at high and middle altitudes for tenth month rice, worked during the rainy season (700 thousand hectares).
2. Low-lying fields for fifth month rice, worked during the dry period of the year using water from the summer downpours (515 thousand hectares).
3. Rice fields from which ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ two rice harvests per year are gathered in the ~~same~~ same period with the use of irrigation (699 thousand hectares).
4. Fields which yield a rice harvest in October and a vegetable harvest in May (229 thousand hectares).

In South Vietnam, besides the first three types of rice fields, there are fields with "floating rice", situated in low-lying areas and covered with water from the flooding of the Mekong and Bassac rivers for many months of the year, and also rice fields located along the rivers and canals and in

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The following categories of fields are distinguished in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam:

1. Fields located at high and middle altitudes for tenth month rice, worked during the rainy season (700 thousand hectares).
2. Low-lying fields for fifth month rice, worked during the dry period of the year using water from the summer downpours (315 thousand hectares).
3. Rice fields from which ~~xxxxxxx~~ two rice harvests per year are gathered in the ~~xxx~~ same period with the use of irrigation (699 thousand hectares).
4. Fields which yield a rice harvest in October and a vegetable harvest in May (229 thousand hectares).

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depressions, here the rice is set out in the thin soil shortly after the water has receded.

As a result of all this diversity two kinds of area sown under rice are distinguished in the use of rice fields: geographical areas, that is, territories on which rice growing is possible, and summary sown areas, which indicate the total number of hectares of land sown in rice once or twice in the course of the year.

According to the official data of the French administration the geographical areas under rice and the rice harvest for 1943-1944 were:

Territory	Sown area (hectares)	Total Rice Harvest (tons)
North of 17th parallel.	1,895,000	1,326,000
South of 17th parallel.....	2,742,000	2,684,000
	4,635,000	4,610,000

However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, using data on the collection of the agricultural tax, has shown that the figures given by the French statistics are too low.

With a total geographical area of rice fields equal to 1960 thousand hectares, the summary sown areas and the rice harvest before the August revolution on the territory now under the jurisdiction of the Democratic

Republic of Vietnam were:

	Sown area (hectares)	Total Rice Harvest (tons)
Fifth month harvest.....	1,015,825	1,400,000
Tenth month harvest.....	1,636,579	2,370,000
	2,650,404	3,770,000

On the territory of South Vietnam before the revolution a rice harvest of 3850 thousand tons was gathered from 2362 hectares of sown area. Over the whole country the area sown under rice totalled about 5 million hectares. By the beginning of 1954 the sown area of the rice fields on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had been reduced to 1624 thousand hectares, mainly because of the "white zones".

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The crop capacity of rice is not everywhere the same. The maximum crop capacity in the Red River delta region is up to 3 tons of rice per hectare. In Trun-bo, with the use of irrigation, the average crop capacity is equal to 2.5 tons of rice per hectare; without irrigation, from 0.6 to 1.8 tons. Because of the damage sustained by the irrigation systems in the course of the war the crop capacity of rice in a number of the country's provinces has fallen on an average of 20%. The crop capacity of rice rises when fertilizer is used. When 200-300 kg. of phosphates are applied per hectare the rice harvest increases by 100-300 kg., that is, the use of 1 kg. of phosphates increases the rice yield by one kg. on the average. The total area of the lands of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam where the use of phosphate fertilizers is effective is about 1 million hectares. Nitrogen fertilizers ~~xxx~~ (ammonium nitrate, calcium cyanamide, ammonium sulphate) are used on the lands which yield a spring rice harvest ~~xxx~~ and on sandy soils. The placing of these fertilizers in the soil, using 150 kg. as a norm for one hectare, allows the rice harvest to be doubled. Organic fertilizers are used mainly in the growing of rice seedlings.

Under contemporary conditions, with Vietnam artificially divided into two parts, when the government of South-Vietnam is hindering normal economic ties between the south and the north, the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam face the task of ensuring the production of the necessary quantity of rice through their own powers. If we use the figure of 300 kg. as the average consumption of unpolished rice for one inhabitant of the republic, then it is essential to ensure a rice harvest of 3000 thousand tons simply for foodstuffs, that is, this figure should exceed the rice harvest on the territory of Democratic-Vietnam before the revolution. The party and the government have set the task of increasing the rice harvest in 1956 to 3120 thousand tons.

This task will be fulfilled through the use of abandoned lands and using modern agricultural equipment for the increased ^{use of fallow plots} ~~of fallow plots~~.

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through the full rehabilitation and development of irrigation systems, through the use of chemical fertilizers, the improvement of the working of the land, and the gathering of the harvest, the selection of the best kinds of rice, and the creation of conditions for the obtaining of two rice harvests in a number of provinces where one harvest has been gathered up to this time.

In response to the appeal of the government of the Republic and the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, field laborers have begun the ~~and~~ enormous job of restoring the sown area to its prewar level and increasing the crop capacity of rice.

It has already been mentioned above that during the war the French invaders created ~~XXXXXX~~ so-called "white zones", which were inaccessible to the Vietnamese, around their strong points. The reclamation of these lands, which have not been worked for many years and are ~~XXXXXX~~ overgrown with thick undergrowth and in many places swampy - is a difficult task. In several areas one must use up from 20 to 30 working days to open up only 1 shao of land, or 360 square meters. However, thanks to the selfless labor of the peasants ~~since~~ since August, by the end of 1954 about 50 thousand mau of land had been opened up. More than 2600 mau of *fallow* land were plowed in several months by the peasants of Ha-Dong province, which suffered the most under the French occupations, and 5000 mau in X Nam-Dinh province, where about 70 km. of dikes were repaired and 10 km. of irrigation ditches were dug at the same time, at the end of 1954.

In 1955 the Ministry of Agriculture of the republic organized the plowing of great masses of *fallow* lands, using modern machinery obtained from friendly countries for this work.

The fulfillment of the task of raising the ~~ix~~ rice harvest will be accompanied by the completion of the land reform, which will increase the interest of the peasants in raising the crop capacity and the gross harvest of ~~XXXXX~~ rice.

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In South Vietnam the production of rice is falling lower and lower. In 1953 the sown area was reduced to 1549 thousand hectares, as opposed to 2362 hectares in 1942. Correspondingly, the rice harvest was only about 2 million tons, as opposed to 3.85 million tons. The crop capacity of rice fell from 2-3 tons to 1-2 tons per hectare.

The causes of such losses are the following: in the south, part ^{of} the fertile lands were turned into "white zones" by the French forces, part of the population of the country which had entered the People's Army during the war years later evacuated along with the army to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the facilities for irrigation, although not destroyed, ^{tell} had fallen into a state of neglect, the irrigation canals ^{became} had become clogged up. ~~xxxxxxx~~
 xx The quantity of livestock was sharply reduced ~~by~~ through its destruction by the French forces in the partisan zones; thus, about 50% of the buffalo were destroyed in the western zone of Nam-bo alone. The Democratic reforms which had been effected by the People's ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ government during the period of the War of Resistance were liquidated.

Corn, batat ^a, and manioc ^{12110C} are very important as foodstuffs, as was indicated above.

These crops are planted with the calculation of ensuring a harvest during the period between March and August, when the lack of rice is felt most severely. Corn, batat ^a, and manioc ^c are grown along the banks of rivers, on the slopes of hills, and on the higher parts of the fields. Corn and manioc ^c give their highest yield on high plateaus with fertile soil.

Numerous kinds of these crops are widespread in Vietnam. There are both early-ripening kinds (the corn and batat ^a come to maturity in 3 months and the manioc ^c in 6 months) and late kinds (with which corn ripens in 3-6 months, batat ^a in 4-5 months, and manioc ^c in 7-8 months).

Batata is the favorite food of the people in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Batat is grown principally in the Red River delta and in the

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soil which yield only one harvest of food crops. Corn is extensively cultivated all of the large river of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the Red River and the Yunnan River.

As a result of the primitive method of cultivation and the lack of selection of the most valuable and highly productive crops relative to various parts of the country, the productivity of these crops is extremely low.

Crop	Crop productivity (in tons per hectare)		
	highest	middle	lowest
Corn.....	2.6	1.5	0.7
Manioc.....	50.0	10.0	2.0
Batata.....	15.0	7.0	1.0

Of recent years, because of the reduction in the sowing of rice, the area sown under these crops in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has increased sharply. The areas sown under the crops under consideration before the war and in 1954 were:

Crop	Sown areas (thousands of hectares)	
	Before the war	in 1954
Corn.....	93.7	120.1
Manioc.....	12.7	26.1
Batata.....	73.9	110.2

The agricultural organs of the country are taking measures after the end of the war as well to increase the harvest of these crops in order to obtain additional food and feed resources.

Kidney beans, soy beans, lentils, and arachis are cultivated in a number of regions of Vietnam. They are usually sown on plots located at high altitudes and also between plantings of corn or rice, since they enrich the soil with nitrogen. The crop capacity of these crops is low, as a rule, because of the torrid climate. Arachis, the harvest of which in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has been up to 5 thousand tons per year of late, is mainly processed as oil.

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In the Democratic Republic of Vietnam there are great natural resources for the growing of varied and extremely valuable technical crops, which are in demand for the national economy as well as for export. However, under French rule these resources were used not at all completely, rapaciously, without the restoration of the fertility of the soil and the selection of the most valuable and highly productive types of crops.

Cotton, which is cultivated in Vietnam, is marked by the short length of its fibers. The most widespread two types of cotton are: *gossypium*, with a vegetation period equal to 6 months, with fiber lengths of up to 15 mm., widespread in Bak-bo and the north of Nam-bo; and *hirsutum*, which ripens in 3-5 months, fiber length up to 22 mm., cultivated in the south of Trun-bo. Cotton is grown in the mountain regions or on the rice fields after the harvesting of the tenth month crop. The cotton is sown primarily in the dry season of the year and the harvest takes place before the beginning of the rainy season.

The productivity of cotton on the territory of North Vietnam until the formation of the republic was 60 kg. of cleaned cotton. At the present time in Thai-Binh province (Democratic Republic of Vietnam) up to 400 kg. are being gathered per hectare as a result of improved cultivation of the plantations.

In 1942 the area of the cotton plantations and the cotton harvest were:

Territory	Sown area (hectares)	Cotton harvest (tons)
North of 17th parallel.....	4700	660
South of 17th parallel.....	5700	1350
	8400	2010

It is evident from this table that cotton raising ~~was not~~ was not very widespread before the War of Resistance.

In the years of the War of Resistance the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam endeavored to overcome the results of the blockade of the liberated regions and to ensure food and clothing for the people and the army by

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using the natural resources of the country.

By 1942 the area sown under cotton had increased to 20,000 hectares. However, since 1950 the area sown under cotton has been somewhat reduced, since the French invaders were occupying several rice-producing regions and the peasants had to increase their sowings of rice at the expense of curtailing the sowings of technical crops.

In 1955-1956 in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam it is planned to assure the sowing of cotton on an area of 25 thousand hectares, to raise the average productivity to 500 kg. of cleaned cotton per hectare by means of improving the cultivation of the fields, to begin the introduction of long-fibered types of cotton, and to organize the selection of local types.

An important item of export is coffee, which has been produced in Vietnam for a long time.¹ Coffee plantations are situated on the hills bordering the Red River delta and on the plateaus of Trun-bo in South Vietnam. The best type of Vietnamese coffee is "Arabika", outstanding for its good flavor and aroma, which is produced primarily in the northern part of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, where the average productivity is around 400 kg. per hectare; this kind of coffee is also grown in the southern part of the republic where significantly higher productivity is attained.

1. Coffee trees were brought in to Vietnam in 1888.

Aside from this the type "Shari" is widespread; its productivity in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is 400-500 kg. The type "robusta", which demands moist soil, is sensitive to cold, and has a lower crop capacity, is cultivated to a lesser extent. On individual plantations the productivity of coffee may rise to 800 kg. per hectare.

The largest coffee plantations in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are located in the Nghe-An province (Trun-bo).

According to the French statistics in 1943 the area of the coffee plantations and the coffee harvest (cleaned beans) were:

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Territory	Area of plantations (hectares)	Coffee harvest (tons)
North of 17th parallel.....	3600	1500
South of 17th parallel.....	5900	4500
	<u>9500</u>	<u>6000</u>

Coffee ~~is cultivated~~ was cultivated primarily on plantations belonging to the large landowners. After the August revolution ^{some} ~~part~~ of the landowners' plantations were destroyed and during the War of Resistance many plantations were abandoned, since the internal market for coffee had been drastically curtailed. In 1954 the area of the coffee plantations in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was only 976 hectares, the productivity had fallen to 200-300 kg. per hectare, and the total coffee harvest had fallen to 200 tons.

After 4-5 years (the period required until the coffee trees commence to bear) the area of the coffee plantations in the provinces of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - Ha-Nam, Phu-To, Thanh-Hoa, Thanh-Nguyen, and Nghe-An - can be increased to 10 thousand hectares. State farms for the production of coffee began to be organized as early as 1955 for this purpose, as was pointed out above.

Tea is grown both in the north of Vietnam (Phu-To, Thanh-Hoa, Nghe-An, Thanh-Nguyen provinces) and in the south of Vietnam (Khuang-Minh, Khuang-Tri provinces). The most widespread sorts of tea are "slan" (tea with sprouts), "muayen-tonkin" (middle Tonkin), Chinese, and "che-an-sen".

Before the war tea growing was very widespread. The area of the plantations and the harvest of prepared tea were:

Territory	Area of plantations (hectares)	Tea harvest (tons)
North of 17th parallel....	11,200	6,500
South of 17th parallel....	1,400	1,200
	<u>12,600</u>	<u>7,700</u>

In 1952 2700 tons of black and green tea, prepared under primitive conditions, were exported from Vietnam.

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During the War of Resistance the production of tea was almost reduced to zero because of the lack of market; it was revived only after 1953. By the end of 1953 it is planned to raise the area of tea plantation in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to 3 thousand hectares. Upon the construction of tea factories in the near future the republic will be exporting a significant amount of high-quality tea.

Rubber began to be produced in 1893 in Vietnam from the 14th to the 10th parallels, on the plateau of Ban-Hu, Thu-Dan-Vot, Bien-Hoi, and Paria and on the lands of An-Khe, Thai-Ninh, Tu-Dinh, and Khai-Tho-Lon.

By 1940 the area of the geveya¹ plantations was more than 100 thousand hectares. The maximum harvest of rubber, obtained in 1941, was equal to 70 thousand tons. Rubber occupied second place among the goods exported from Vietnam. In the period of the War of Resistance the ^{extent of the} preparation of rubber was lowered, but by 1953 the French plantation owners had again brought the area of the plantations up to 65 thousand hectares and the harvest of rubber almost back to the prewar level - 70 thousand tons per year.

1. Geveya - rubber tree of the ^{SPURGE} ~~Wartwort~~ family, the basic source for the production of natural rubber. Geveya plantations are located in areas with heavy rainfall, with the soils of tropical forests which are rich in humus, and with a high level of subsoil water. Rubber is obtained from the bark of the trees by slashing them.

Out of the 950 plantations located in the south of Vietnam 900 belong to French companies and plantation owners. However, at present many French plantations owners have only nominal possession of their plantations. The generous stocks of military equipment supplied by the United States of America during the war years were far from originating in unselfish motives. America needs natural rubber, and of late American companies are not only attempting to seize the lion's share of the production of Vietnamese rubber but they are also trying to invest capital in rubber plantations and are ever more persistently squeezing

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the French capital. Thus, by the end of 1953 65% of the stock of the French company "Michelin" for the production of rubber and 17 thousand hectares of plantations had passed into American possession. The rubber plantations of the French company "Riviera", located in Indo-China, have also passed into the hands of the American company "Goodrich".

S u g a r c a n e is a food product for the population of Vietnam and serves as raw material for the production of sugar. In 1943 the area sown under sugar cane was 7800 hectares on the territory ~~with~~ north of the 17th parallel and 27,800 hectares in the south of the country. Correspondingly, sugar production was 156 thousand and 764 thousand tons per year.

A great number of types of cane are used for sowing. *Java*, white, yellow, and others. The average productivity in terms of sugar was 600-800 kg. per hectare in Bak-bo, 1000-1500 kg. in Trun-bo, and 1200-2500 kg. in Nam-bo.

During the war years the area sown under sugar cane was reduced. After the war the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam took measures intended to raise the area of the land sown under sugar cane to 7 thousand hectares by the end of 1956.

C o c o a n u t palms are not very widespread in Bak-bo. In Trun-bo there are about 4 thousand hectares of cocoanut palm plantations, of which 2500 hectares are located in the province of Binh-Dinh, in the south of Trun-bo. The total harvest on the plantations in Bak-bo and Trun-bo comprises about 4 thousand tons of copra, which is processed on the spot into cocoanut oil. The large cocoanut palm plantations having a total area of 20 thousand hectares are situated in Nam-bo, in the delta of the Mekong, and in Mi-to, Binh-Long, and Bentre provinces. About 80% of the copra gathered in Nam-bo is exported.

T o b a c c o is cultivated both in the north and in the south of Vietnam. The plantations in the provinces of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - Nge-An,

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Thai-Binh, Tuyen-Kuang, Shontay, Thanh-Hoa - occupy an area of about 4 thousand hectares. The plantations of South Vietnam (principally in the provinces of Kuang-Nam and Za-Dinh) have an area equal to 8 thousand hectares. The average productivity of tobacco in Vietnam is 500-800 kg. of dry leaf per hectare, and on fertile soils - up to 1500 kg.

S i l k c u l t u r e. For many years the peasants of Vietnam have engaged in silk culture - all the operations right down to the spinning of the silk cloth were performed directly in the peasant households. This was always a source of extra income for the ~~pe~~ peasants. As a result the planting of mulberry trees became significantly widespread. The mulberry trees on an area of 1 hectare can feed a ~~sufficient~~ quantity of silkworms sufficient to produce 250 kg. of cocoons or 14 kg. of silk thread.

Mulberry trees grow well in sandy or alluvial soils along the banks of rivers and occupy a total area of about 4300 hectares in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In South Vietnam plantings of mulberry trees occupy an area of up to 2700 hectares.

Aside from the technical crops enumerated above there grow in Vietnam: jute and ramie, which yield very strong technical fibers; sesame, from the seeds of which is obtained high quality oil for the food industry; castor-oil-plants, which yield valuable oil for the varnish industry and for technical and medical purposes; lotus, the seeds of which are widely used in the countries of South-east Asia for confections; cultivated ~~ginseng~~ ginseng; and also a number of spices - black pepper, cloves, etc. However, during the war years plantings of these crops were seriously curtailed. Now these crops, ~~which~~ which are important as exports for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, are again receiving widespread distribution.

A n i m a l h u s b a n d r y has exceedingly favorable conditions for development in Vietnam, especially on the plateaus and in the middle regions of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, where large animals are primarily grown,

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...the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, of Lao-Kao, Haiphong, and Lang-Son, which mean to the extent of about 40-45% of their live weight. The heaviest are the animals of the "yellow horn" breed (weighing from 100 to 200 kg.). Horses do not have much significance in the economy of Vietnam.

Before the war veterinary service in Vietnam was poorly organized. During the war years, the peasants in the liberated regions waged a successful fight against the epizootic diseases of animals, inoculating them against the plague and anthrax and carrying out a number of preventive hygienic measures.

Draft animals are the basis of agriculture under the conditions of Vietnam. The soldiers of the expeditionary force had it drilled into them that "killing one buffalo is the same thing as killing one peasant, killing one peasant is the same thing as killing three soldiers of the Vietnamese army". Therefore the French forces killed draft animals in a rapacious manner, especially in the areas around the partisan bases, even going so far as to shoot the animals from airplanes. After the war the agricultural organs of Democratic Vietnam took measures to increase the number of cattle in the shortest time possible, principally by increasing the number of offspring and by the preservation of the young animals. At the same time veterinary service is being everywhere ~~xxxx~~ broadened and the production of vaccine is being increased. The government is extending credit to the peasants for the purchase of draft animals. The peasants in those regions where there is a surplus of cattle are being given favorable terms for the sale of ~~their~~ their animals.

In 1954 there were 1 million buffalo and bulls, 2 million swine, and about 20 million domestic fowl in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The Workers' Party and the People's government have set themselves the task of guaranteeing

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on the average one buffalo or bull for every 2.5 hectares of rice fields *by the end of 1956.*

Fishing is a means of obtaining a significant quantity of valuable foodstuffs. The seacoast and the numerous rivers of the country have rich stocks of valuable fish. The most widespread fish are the tunny and the mackerel, which are especially intensively caught from November, through April, and also sardines, which are ~~caught~~ caught the whole year round but most actively from November through February.

The yearly catch of fish after the war in the republic was about 75 thousand tons. At the ~~present~~ present time, for the purpose of the development of ~~the~~ the fishing industry, the production of sea-going junks with a capacity of up to 30 tons and fishing tackle is being organized. In the near future the construction of ~~fishing~~ fish preserving factories in the republic will be started.

In a number of regions of the country the harvest capacity of agricultural crops, especially rice, has been lowered because of unfavorable natural conditions in individual years. The rice plantings suffer both from the frequent floodings of the rivers and from lack of water in periods of drought. Therefore irrigation has exceptionally great significance for the growing of rice. However, the ~~irrigation~~ irrigation systems were not sufficiently developed and for that reason only one harvest is gathered from many ~~fields~~ fertile fields to this day.

In individual regions of the country there are specific peculiar conditions which exert an influence on the character of irrigation and, consequently, on the character of agriculture as well. In the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as was noted above, large sown areas are located in low-lying regions, in the Red River delta, so that almost everywhere the level of the water in the river exceeds the level of the rice fields by 3-4 meters on the average, and in the region of Hanoi by 6-9 meters.

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The water level of the river rises periodically every year between June and October. The maximum rise in the water level occurs 2 or 3 times, usually in June and August. In 1945 the rising of the water to a level of 12.68 meters above sea level caused a break in the dikes, ^{the} flooding of 230 thousand hectares of land, and the destruction of more than 1 million people as a result of the flood and the ensuing famine.

Along with this, during the period when the water is on the rise in the rivers, the excess precipitation in those zones which are protected from floods cannot be drained from the fields. Thus, for example, in the provinces of Nam-Dinh, Nin-Binh, and Ha-Nam in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, as a result of the incompleteness of the irrigation facilities, fertile lands during the period of high water and downpour yield only one harvest of rice in the course of a year.

On the other hand, many irrigation facilities in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam cannot ward off the water's running off the fields and then the harvest is ruined by drought in spite of the presence of a large total water supply.

The sown areas along the seacoast have to be protected from the tides and water driven by the typhoons. Thus, rice fields from ~~Kuang~~ Kuang-Yen to Nin-Binh are located 2 meters below the level of the gulf, and if there were no protective dikes in this region the fields would be flooded with sea water every year.

The southern part of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the northern part of South Vietnam are situated on a narrow strip of territory, bounded on one side by the sea and on the other by mountain ranges. Water from the mountains flows down rapidly in small rivers, and therefore terrible flood periods alternate with droughts very rapidly. Aside from this, in this region of the country powerful hot winds (the so-called "fire storms") blowing from the west, are a frequent occurrence. In this country the stocks of water are

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formed with the aid of irrigation apparatus.

In South Vietnam the Mekong river not only floods the rice fields but it also inundates a significant amount of territory. Therefore irrigation must serve as drainage in this part of the country.

In this way irrigation facilities protect the population of hundreds of towns and villages, fields and plantations from inundation by the frequent river floods, aid the draining of rice fields when there has been excess precipitation, irrigate thousands of hectares of rice fields, and, finally, protect fertile lands from being made ~~saline~~ saline by sea water. In order to obtain a rice harvest of one ton, 0.7 liters of water per second must be supplied for every hectare.

Irrigation in Vietnam has long been an important problem, possessing not only economic but also political significance. The French colonizers were compelled to construct some irrigation systems after the starving population of Nge-An rose in a number of protests against the yoke of the colonizers. In the period of the War of Resistance a number of irrigation facilities were destroyed upon the withdrawal of French forces in the provinces of Thai-Nguyen, Nge-An, Thanh-Hoa, Binh-Phuc, Bak-Zyan, and a number of others.

Taking into account the importance of these facilities for agriculture and for the improvement of the welfare of the people, the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, with the wide patriotic participation of the population, set about the rehabilitation of the irrigation systems immediately upon the liberation of one region of the country or another. The people's government of Democratic Vietnam considers the rehabilitation and development of the irrigation systems to be the second most important agricultural task after the land reform.

At the present time the irrigation facilities on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam belong to the state and the distribution of water to the rice fields is carried on on a planned basis by irrigation offices

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which have been created under the provincial governing organs. These offices work in close contact with public organizations of peasants.

Until the war the irrigation systems on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam irrigated about 317 thousand hectares of rice fields. Starting in 1947 the majority of these systems underwent more or less extensive damage, as a result of which the area of the irrigated fields, and consequently the rice harvest as well, was sharply reduced.

In solving
To solve the problem of ~~raising~~ increasing the harvest - the key economic problem of the country - the tempo and scope of the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems *have* a great deal of significance.

Therefore the rehabilitation of irrigation was activated in 1954 and by the ~~g~~ beginning of 1955 more than 276 thousand hectares had been supplied with irrigation once more. In 1955 it was planned not only to regain the prewar level of irrigated sown area but even to increase it to 370-380 thousand hectares. By the beginning of 1955 such large irrigation systems as Song-Kay, Lien-Shon, Shontay, Nam-Dinh, Ngo-Don West, and a number of others had been completely ~~m~~ restored. In Thanh-Hoa province, thanks to the enthusiasm of the peasants, the Lien-Pho and Long-Linh dams, connected with the irrigation system of the Song-Chu river, were put back into operation in short order.

At the same time a great number of planning and surveying projects are being carried out in the republic on the construction of new irrigation systems calculated to supply more than 700 thousand hectares of land; the construction of these systems will soon be begun.

The peasants are actively participating in the rehabilitation of old, and the building of new, irrigation systems. The inhabitants of the village of Tyn-Phuc built, under their own power, an irrigation canal supplying water for 450 hectares of rice fields, which permitted the gathering of a good rice harvest even in 1954. In November 1954 water was admitted to the large Phong-Lak canal. A ~~★~~ May rice harvest was assured on 40 thousand hectares of land.

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The extent of excavation exceeded 68 thousand cubic meters. About 20 thousand cubic meters of stone were quarried and incorporated into the irrigation facilities. More than 500 thousand man-days were expended on all these works. On 10 January 1955 2500 of the best workers on these projects received rewards and thanks.

Beginning in October 1954 the Ministry of Public Works and Communications with the assistance of several thousand peasant volunteers ~~began the~~ started the rehabilitation of the large reinforced concrete dam of Bay-Tuong. In its day this dam took 8 years to construct. The French compelled the people to build the dam, which at that time was needful only to the landowners and French plantation owners ~~of~~ for the irrigation of their lands. The Bay-Tuong dam supplied the water for 50 thousand hectares of rice fields in Thanh-Hoa province with the use of the reservoir created by it having an area of more than 160 ~~km~~ hectares and with the aid of 330 km. of large main canals and more than 2 thousand km. of drainage ditches. During the war the French torpedoed the dam in three places and dropped 200 bombs on it.

The rehabilitation of this dam can serve as an example of ^{the} adept organization of labor and high tempos of reconstruction achieved by the Vietnamese people. More than 6 thousand cubic meters of ~~concrete~~ concrete had to be incorporated into the body of the dam; the underwater part, which had been ~~damaged~~ damaged in several places, ~~had to be repaired~~ as well as the sluices and flood-gates of the dam had to be repaired in order to supply water to the fields which since ~~1952~~ 1952 had been almost completely transformed into a desert, since for two years the peasants had been compelled to carry water on their backs from the river to the near-by parts of the ~~first~~ fields, which did not ensure the necessary flooding.

And here under conditions of great industrial difficulties, lacking sufficient equipment and transport, even mixing the concrete by hand, working day and night in three shifts, building according to sketches which were

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drawn up right ^{there} ~~on the spot~~, on the construction area, the builders of the dam by the end of the first quarter of 1955 had completed the basic reconstruction of the body of the dam, which once more rose to a height of 15 meters above the swift waters of the Song-Chu River.

On 31 October 1954, ten days ahead of schedule, the construction of the Ban-Thak canal was completed, the largest irrigating canal on this same river, supplying more than 35 thousand hectares of land with water.

More than 4 thousand persons have been working since October 1954 on the rehabilitation of the Lo-Dong irrigation system in the province of Nge-An; this system has a number of large installations and formerly irrigated more than 30 thousand hectares. The waste-gate dam on the Song-Ka River - the basic installation in this system - was not damaged, but six of seven sluices located on a large canal more than 14 km. long underwent a significant amount of destruction. The total scope of all concrete projects exceeded 9 thousand cubic meters.

At the end of 1954 in two months, with the aid of the ~~pe~~ peasants of 13 communes, 213 dams, canals, and other installations for the irrigation system were reconstructed in the province of Thai-Nguyen. In December 1954 the irrigation system of the Song-Kay River, supplying water for more than 21 thousand rice fields in Thai-Nguyen and Bak-Zyan provinces, was put into shape.

On 5 January 1955 the full rehabilitation of the irrigation system in the province of Ha-Dong was completed. About 200 thousand cubic meters of earth had to be ~~excavated~~ removed in order that the 89 canals with a length of more than 170 km. might be exploited once more.

By 10 January 1955 the peasants of Thai-Binh province had finished the construction of 460 km. of irrigation canals, the reinforcing of 37 km. of dikes, and the building of 28 water distributing flood-gates and other installations to irrigate a large area of rice fields. Tasks of no lesser extent have been completed in the provinces of Nam-Dinh, Hung-Yen, Binh-Phu, and others.

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Along with the rehabilitation and construction of large irrigation systems in the republic, work begun back in the war years is being activated for the construction of small irrigation installations by the peasants themselves - little dams and weirs, reservoirs, connecting canals. The organs of the state are extending financial and technical aid ~~to~~ to the peasants in this work. The carrying out of such projects in the period from 1948 to 1954 has allowed the irrigation of more than 400 thousand hectares of land; along with this, although these projects in ~~1953~~ 1952 were being carried out on an area of 33 thousand hectares of rice fields, in 1954 the irrigation of 150 thousand hectares was assured.

Work for the improvement of already existing dams has no lesser significance. On the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam along the banks of the rivers and the shore of the Gulf of Tonkin there are more than 3600 km. of protective dikes. However, the dikes are in a position to withstand high water to the extent that it existed in 1945, for example, only along about 1000 km. of their length. A number of the dikes built under the French regime were not nearly high enough and were badly reinforced. This was fraught with grievous consequences. Breaks in the dikes occurred in 1906, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1936, 1937, 1940, and 1942, that is, almost every 1-2 years. People perished, towns and villages were inundated, plantings were destroyed.

During the War of Resistance the French invaders weakened the dikes even more by building ~~in them~~ ^{in them} shelters and gun emplacements and by subjecting them to bombardment.

In the course of the war, as the country was gradually liberated from the French colonizers the government of the republic organized projects for the strengthening of the dikes and is activating them at the present time. The pouring of additions to the dikes, the broadening of their bases, the strengthening of eroded parts, and the repair of flood-gates are being carried on

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on a large scale.

The forests of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam represent a ~~great~~ great deal of wealth. Before the August revolution they belonged to the local feudal landowners and the French colonizers. At the ~~present~~ present ~~ix~~ time all the forest riches of the country belong to the state. All earlier forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam were annulled.

In Vietnam a total of 13.45 million hectares, or 41% of the area of the country, are occupied by ~~forests~~ forests. More than 65% of all the forests (8.85 million hectares) are located on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, including 5.5 million hectares in Bak-bo.

All the forests may be characterized by the following data according to their stocks of commercial woods:¹

1. French statistics in which part of the forest masses in the mountain regions are not taken into consideration.

Regions of the country	Total (mill. hec.)	Forested	Area	Sparse forests and forest-steppes, having no industrial significance
		Forests with large wood stocks (more than 300 cu. m. per hec.)	Forests with medium wood stocks (from 150 to 300 cu. m. per hec.)	
		Mln. hec. %	Mln. hec. %	Mln. hec. %
Bak-bo.....	5.5			
Trun-bo.....	6.0			
Nam-bo.....	1.95			
T o t a l				
Part on the territory mark north of the 17th parallel.....	8.85			

(Table on p. 59)

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As the table indicates, the forests of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam possess resources of about 1.5 billion cubic meters of commercial ^{timber} wood. However, the working of the forests is difficult since many forest masses are jungles which are difficult of access, in which the construction of forest roads is demanded. Forests containing one species of tree are met with infrequently.

A number of the rivers are of little use for floating timber. In the mountain regions of the country parts of the forests have been destroyed as a result of the system of cultivation existing there, in which the forests are cut and burned out to clear plots for the sowing of agricultural crops and then after 2-3 sowings these plots are abandoned for the clearing and sowing of new plots.

Nevertheless, ^{the forests of} Vietnam possesses ~~xx~~ large and valuable resources even under these conditions. A number of valuable woods are peculiar to the fauna of the Indo-China peninsula.

Among these valuable woods are: rosewood, ~~ebony~~, teak, ironwood, sandalwood or redwood, rosewood, ~~Camphorwood, cinnamon wood~~, ^{light} ebony, and a number of others used for the production of furniture and woodwork, for construction, for the production of railroad ties, and for ~~the~~ producing valuable products. In the forests of Vietnam there are large stocks of green and yellow bamboo. Bamboo, thanks to its strength, durability, and ^{light} ~~small~~ weight, is the universal construction material and is widely used as wall material, for the ceilings of buildings, for the construction of bridges, and ~~asxxatx~~ in the capacity of water pipes.

The forests of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam allow the development of the widespread production of a number of valuable technical wood products. Among them are: black and white cardamon, produced even now at the rate of 200 tons per year; badian, from which are prepared up to 3 thousand tons of valuable oil ~~at~~ for medicinal purposes and the confectionery industry; cinnamon, large supplies of which are located in the forests of Trun-bo and which is produced in quantities of up to 6 thousand tons; benzoin¹, terpentine,

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gum, rosin, a number of tanning materials, astringent and aromatic substances, and textile dyes.

1. Benzoin, or benjamin, is the pitch of the styrax tree. It is used as an antiseptic in medicine and ~~it~~ in ~~the~~ perfumery.

The forests of Vietnam have been little developed. In the period of French rule there were French societies for the working of forests, which prepared valuable woods, only in the regions of Trun-bo and Nam-bo which were richest in forests. Individual ~~enterprises~~ entrepreneurs merely credited the peasants who obtained the wood and occupied themselves with the sale of the wood.

During the Japanese occupation the forests near floatable rivers, roads, and inhabited points were rapaciously destroyed. A significant quantity of hydrotechnical and ship building timber as well as valuable woods ^{was} ~~were~~ ~~it~~ carried off to Japan.

The working of the ^{forests} ~~fields~~ was carried out with extremely primitive methods. Broad swords and large knives were used for the felling of trees. Saws were not used by woodcutters. Transporting the timber to the roads or to the floatation site was carried out by hand, and only individual ~~rich~~ wealthy forestry exploiters used buffalo or elephants for ~~the~~ getting timber out.

The total extent of the timber produced in Vietnam in 1939 was 360 thousand cubic meters of construction timber, 330 thousand cubic meters of firewood, and about 3 thousand tons of charcoal. In 1954 only 70 thousand cubic meters of timber, the same amount of firewood, and about 2500 tons of charcoal were produced on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. However, at the end of the year, in connection with the widespread development of rehabilitation work, the production of timber was increased.

In 1955 the production of timber was sharply augmented, and ~~it~~ in 1956? it is planned to produce up to 540 thousand cubic meters of wood.

At the present time industrial cooperatives, formed in the forested regions of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, have become quite widespread;

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they supply the state stores with wood prepared for sale.

With the idea of broadening the exploitation of the forests, in 1955 was begun the organization of state timber-producing farms equipped with modern equipment, tools, and transport facilities by the aid of friendly countries.

At the same time was begun the clearing out of the channels of a number of floatable rivers and the blasting away of rapids and rocks in the rivers so as to reduce the timber losses through floatation.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has adopted a number of decisions on the organization of the exploitation of forests and of planned forestry. From 1952 to 1955 4 million trees were planted. In North Trun-b alone the area of forest plantings in this time was increased to 2 thousand hectares. By 1959 it is planned to increase the area of forest plantings to 40 thousand hectares.

Offices for the exploitation of the forest economy have been formed under the local governing organs in many provinces. Soon there will be introduced regulations for the exploitation of forests with the aim of ensuring the use of the forest ^{resources} of the republic on planned and scientific basis.

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INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT

The Vietnamese earth conceals great riches within itself. Large deposits of various useful minerals, great possibilities for the electrification of the country on the basis of the rich coal stocks and hydroelectric resources, and the presence of raw materials for the production of goods in wide use will permit the development of extremely varied branches of industry and will ~~xxx~~ ensure the complete economic independence of the country.

However, even in this section of the national economy of Vietnam the evil role of French colonialism, which acted on the principle of "everything for ourselves, everything for profit - nothing for the people", is clearly evident.

The richest natural resources ~~xxx~~ were hardly used at all for the development of the national industry of the country.

The industry of Vietnam was completely dependent on imports; more exactly, on the interests of the French exporters, who determined the type, quantity, and value of the materials and equipment which it was convenient for them to sell in Vietnam.

During the War of Resistance part of the enterprises in the mining industry were destroyed. In 1954, after the withdrawal of the French troops from the north to the south of Vietnam, work in many of the enterprises located on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ceased, and part of the equipment was carried off by the owners of these enterprises to the south or to France for the purpose of hindering the renewal of the work of these enterprises.

After the victory of the people's democratic system in the republic the Vietnamese people faced the task, in the near future, of not only rehabilitating the ruined enterprises, of not only putting the industrial capacity which had been preserved at the service of the people, but also, principally, of creating anew and developing on a basis of planning, using modern technology, a number of branches of industry necessary for the ~~the~~ national economy, for agriculture,

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and for increasing the welfare of the people.

What is the industry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam like and what are the prospects for its development?

Above was indicated the presence of valuable deposits of the most varied useful minerals in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Characterizing them as a whole, one may say that they are notable for their highly concentrated ~~mineral content~~ content of metal or metallic compounds in the ore or in the rock, and, judging by the far from complete data of geological surveys, by their significantly large reserves. Aside from this, the bedding of many of the useful minerals is such that their exploitation can be carried on without large capital investments and frequently by the use of open strip mining.

On the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam there are deposits of coal, iron and copper ore, pyrite, tin, wolfram, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold, silver, antimony, mercury, apatites, chromium, molybdenum, manganese, graphite, magnesite, and limestone.

The total reserves of coal are estimated at 20 billion tons. In the coal basin of Hongai¹, with reserves of 10 billion tons, there are large fields belonging to the "Tonkin Coal Company" (France)².

1. Goes into the Haiphong zone which, in accordance with the Geneva agreements, was abandoned by the French forces in May 1955.

2. By an agreement between the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and a French economic delegation, arrived at in April 1955, these coal fields are being bought by the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (over 15 years) by cancellation of the cost of mining the coal.

These fields are worked principally by open-strip mining. Up until the War of Resistance there worked on the coal fields: 7 excavators with a total shovel capacity of 18.5 cub. meters; 50 special trucks with a load capacity of from 10 to 40 tons; more than 40 engines; and several railroad cars, operated on tracks with gauge gauges of 1.0 and 0.5 meters and a length of more

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than 140 km.; 5 piers; and a steam turbine electric power station with a power capacity of 13 thousand kilowatts. 29 thousand men were employed in these fields in 1939; they produced more than 2.5 million tons of coal. The coal went principally for export, since the domestic consumption of coal before the war was only about 500 thousand tons per year. During the war years, as a result of the difficulties in the selling of coal, production was curtailed and in 1954 it was only 750 thousand tons.

~~anth~~ The anthracite which is produced in the region of Hongay is noted for its high quality and contains 3-7% ash, less than 1% sulphur, 8-11% volatile substances, and 86-89% carbon. The calorific capacity of this coal is equal to 7800-8300 Cal/kg.

Aside from these coal deposits there are supplies of coking coal in Thai-Nguyen province. These coals are also noted for their high quality and contain 4.2% ash, 1% sulphur, 23.3-25% volatile substances, and 68.5% carbon; the moisture content of the coal is equal to 1.9% and the calorific capacity is 7900 Cal/kg. In the ~~kam~~ Long-Kam region coking coal is deposited in nine layers, penetrating ~~into~~ the earth at an angle of ~~to~~ 70°. Half of these layers are from 2.5 to 15 meters thick. Besides this, deposits of such coals are found also in the region of Dien-Bien-Phu and in the provinces of Nge-An, Nin-Binh, and Hoa-Binh.

There are deposits of lignites in many regions of the republic. Earlier they were mined principally in the provinces of Lang-Son and Nin-Binh.

At the present time 5 coal mines on the territory of the republic are being exploited.

Iron deposits have been discovered in eight provinces of the republic. The average metal content of the ores is 30%, and in individual deposits it goes as high as 50-65%.

The largest reserves of iron in the north of the republic are ~~located~~ concentrated northwest of the town of Lao-Kai, along the right bank of the

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Red River. In the region of Thai-Nguyen there are rich ores with a metal content of up to 68%. In ~~1952~~ 1942 at the French mine Ivonna in this region 63 thousand tons of ore were produced. Ore smelting was carried on in a small blast-furnace, which has now been destroyed. Aside from this there are deposits of iron ore in the province of Kao-Bang, on the Bang-Dzan River.

In the provinces of Nge-An, Ha-Tinh, and Thanh-Hoa there are deposits of rare manganese iron ores of the brown hematite type. Formerly this ore was exported to Japan. During the War of Resistance high-quality gray iron was smelted using charcoal in a small ~~even~~ furnace in the province of Thanh-Hoa.

These rich deposits of iron ore and coking coal fulfil the prerequisites for the creation of a national metallurgical industry.

The earth of Democratic Vietnam is rich in tin and wolfram, which are found together. These two metals are found in veins and in fields; wolfram is found principally in the veins and tin in the fields. The richest deposits of tin are in the Tin-Tuk valley (Kao-Bang province), where the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ 1 cubic meter of ~~theXXXXXXXXXXXXtheXXXXXX~~ ore with the metal concentrate contains an average of 2 kg. of tin and in individual parts of the deposit up to 15-20 kg.

There is reason to believe that these deposits are a continuation of the rich deposits of the South China geological massif (Yunnan province).

The layers of field ore are deposited at a depth of 8 meters from the surface of the earth, extend 1 km. in length, and are up to 250 m. wide and 30-40 m. deep. According to the incomplete figures of the geological surveys, the tin reserves in this as yet little explored region are quite large in extent.

The mining of ore in the Tin-Tuk deposit is carried on by hand through open strip mining. The ore is brought up ~~xxx~~ from the valley by a ropeway and is hauled for washing with the aid of electric locomotive ~~xxx~~. The field is supplied with electric power by two small hydro-electric power

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stations. During the war a part of the installations were destroyed. However, in the near future, after the completion of rehabilitation work, the exploitation of this valuable deposit will be ^{fully resumed} ~~completely renewed~~.

Besides the Tin-Tuk region, tin has been discovered in the province of Ien-Bai, in the region of the granite massif Piya-Uak. Up until the war the yearly production was 650 tons of ore, ~~it~~ calculated in terms of metal. The ore was not smelted in Vietnam since, as a result of the high concentration of metal in it it was convenient for the French monopolists to export the ore, limiting themselves to dressing the ore by means of washing. At the present time a small tin smelting factory is in operation in the republic.

Up to 68% metal is contained in the wolfram ores produced in the republic. In the Tin-Tuk deposits the tin ores contain a small quantity of wolfram, ^{but} ~~and~~ with the wolfram ores, on the other hand, tin is a by-product. The wolfram reserves have not been completely explored; nevertheless, there are significant quantities of the metal in the deposits which are already known. The greatest production of wolfram was carried on by hand at the Ganymede mines, from where the ore was transported to Tin-Tuk for washing and dressing. Up until the Second World War the yearly production of wolfram was 480 tons.

Large zinc deposits are located in the north of the republic. The ore is noted for its high quality and contains up to 62% ~~oxide~~ zinc oxide. The largest deposits of zinc are situated in Bak-Kan province and also in the province of Thai-Nguyen (Lanhut mine). Zinc mining was also carried on using the open strip method. The zinc was smelted at a factory in the hamlet of Kua-Ien near Hai-phong. Until the Second World War up to 5 thousand tons of the metal per year were exported from Vietnam to France. In 1942 the production of zinc ~~ore~~ was 15 thousand tons.

Copper ores are located in six provinces of the ~~republic~~ republic. The beds in the provinces of Thanh-Hoa and Nghe-An contain deposits of copper as well as barium and sulphur, and in the regions of Lay-Chau and along the Black River -

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chalcopyrite, pyrite, and other complex ores.

Pyrite, situated at a depth of 30-50 meters, is to be found in a number of the regions of Thanh-Hoa, Bak-Kan, and other provinces.

The reserves of lead have not been completely explored, but it has been found in quantities of from 100 to 1000 tons of metal in individual beds. The metal content of the ore ranges from 30% (Bak-Kan province) to 50% (Tu-Le region in Yen-Bai province). Galenite and galena are found in the ore along with the lead, and in the Tu-Le region along the Red River silver and gold are found with it. There were no important lead mines in the republic. During the War of Resistance the government organized the mining of lead ore in the provinces of Phu-To, Thanh-Hoa, and Nghe-An and in the Tu-Le region.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has large reserves of apatites. In the area of the town of Lao-Kay, in the northwestern part of the republic, there may be found deposits of apatites containing ~~up to~~ 35-41% (reserves up to 150 million tons) and 18% (reserves up to 1200 million tons) of ~~anhydrite~~ anhydrite of phosphorus.

The apatites are deposited in the form of almost vertical veins 10 m. thick, up to 40 m. deep, and with an area of 150 sq. m. The apatite veins ~~are~~ alternate with layers of ~~granite~~ granite and other crystalline rocks. The apatites will permit the preparation of high-quality superphosphates, which are so necessary for the agriculture of the country. In spite of the country's large apatite requirements their yearly production before the War of Resistance was only about 32 thousand tons. In 1954 production fell to 2.4 thousand tons. The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam attaches a great deal of significance to the working of these extremely rich deposits. Therefore in the near future a powerful apatite mine equipped with modern equipment will be constructed at the Lao-Kay beds simultaneously with the stepping up of production at the five small mines already in existence. Soon hundreds of thousands of tons of apatites will be supplied to a superphosphate factory; after the

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construction of this factory the agriculture of the country will be furnished with high quality fertilizers.

The g bauxite reserves have not been extensively explored. However, one may assume, going on the basis of regions which have already been investigated, that they comprise about 2.5 million tons. In Lang-Son province there are beds lying nearly at the surface of the earth containing up to 40% aluminum oxide. The production of bauxites before the war on the basis of these beds was about 7 thousand tons per year. Besides that, bauxites are located in the provinces of Hai-Duong (near Haiphong) and Ngo-An. Aluminum was not smelted in Vietnam.

High quality graphite, containing up to 85% carbon, is located in the Red River basin and in the south of Bak-bo. Their approximate reserves of graphite are about 2.8 thousand tons. Until the war the yearly production was 400 tons of graphite.

The reserves of chromium have not been fully surveyed but, using data from prewar investigations, one may suppose that a yearly production of 10 thousand tons of concentrate, composing about 45-51% of the ore, is possible.

The reserves of magnesium, beds of which are situated along the northern border of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, have not been surveyed either. In 1944 5.7 thousand tons of magnesium ore were produced, according to French data.

Gold and antimony have been discovered in many regions of the ~~Democratic~~ republic, but their beds have not yet been completely surveyed.

From the short survey of the geological resources of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam given above one may deduce that the republic possesses great possibilities for the development of the mining industry, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, and the production of many chemical products necessary for the national economy.

It follows from these same data that the mining industry

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was little developed under the French regime. The enterprises which did exist were designed principally for the use of manual labor. Therefore even those mining enterprises which were preserved after the war have to be reconstructed, equipped with modern equipment in order to raise their productive capacity to a level corresponding to the demands of the country.

A state geological service, which carries on surveys and explorations, was organized in 1953 in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In the near future it is planned to increase significantly the production of coal, iron ore, chromium concentrate, bauxites, apatites, and a number of other useful minerals and to restore the production of tin, zinc, and wolfram to its prewar level. On this basis the processing ~~xxxx~~ industry of the republic, which at present is comprised of only a few comparatively small enterprises, will be developed.

The metal working industry in Democratic Vietnam has been very little developed. In Hanoi there ^{are} ~~is~~ a shop for the preparation of bicycle parts, also equipped for the production of up to 2 thousand bicycles per year, and several auto repair shops. Three mechanics shops are located in Haiphong. This branch of industry is undeveloped in the south of the country ~~xxxx~~ also. Only in Saigon are there a ship-repair outfit employing 3 thousand workers, two iron foundries, and several small auto repair shops.

The building materials industry in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is represented by a few factories belonging to a French company and to individual Vietnamese entrepreneurs.

A cement factory located in Haiphong is designed for a yearly output of up to 400 thousand tons of portland cement. The larger part of the cement is exported to the countries of South-east Asia. Up to 10 thousand workers were employed at the factory. In 1953-1954 the production of cement was cut to 290 thousand tons. The factory manufactures cement using the dry and wet methods. An electric power station of 12.5 thousand kilowatts is connected

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with the factory.

In Haiphong there are glass and brick works and a small factory for the production of cement pipes. The glass works produces window glass and also tableware and bottles. In 1939 the works manufactured 5.5 thousand tons of glass and the same quantity of bottles. One third of the production of the works was exported. The brick works is designed for a monthly production of 500 thousand bricks and 60 thousand tiles.

A ceramics factory is located in the suburbs of Hanoi. This factory is ~~designed~~ designed for the production of brick (600 thousand per month), ceramic pipes (2 thousand tons per month), tiles, and crucibles for the smelting of metals. There are domestic enterprises which produce brick and tile in a number of provinces.

The state acetylene factory, located in Haiphong, produces a yearly output of up to 30 thousand cubic meters of acetylene and 100 thousand cubic meters of oxygen.

Among the ~~existing~~ ^{light} industry enterprises to be found in Vietnam the largest is the textile combine of the French company "Catonin" in Nam-Dinh. The combine contains 142 thousand spindles and 1316 looms. Before the war the combine ~~produced~~ processed up to 15 thousand tons of cotton per year.

In the course of the war the production of the combine was sharply curtailed.

Type of production	Units of measurement	1940	1953
Cotton cloth.....	million meters	25	12
Commercial yarn	meters	2137	2448
Wadding	meters	133	
Clothing	million items	1.125	0.523

The number of workers was reduced from 13,860 to 5600. Beginning in the second half of 1954 the combine ceased work, since the French entrepreneurs during the evacuation carried off a number of parts for the turbogenerators installed in the combine's electric power station.

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- see IP below

There are ~~xxx~~ in the republic a silk mill with 110 looms² in Nam-Dinh, a ~~xx~~ textile mill in Haiphong which produces up to 440 tons of thread and yarn per year, and a leather factory in Hanoi, designed for the processing of 300 tons of leather and leather products per year; all these ~~all~~^{are} belong to French entrepreneurs. At the beginning of 1953 these enterprises were not in operation, as they were partially disassembled by the owners when they evacuated the north of Vietnam.

The ~~food~~^{are} industry in Vietnam was very little developed. Only in Hanoi ~~was~~^{are} there a factory for the production of beer and soft drinks and a small liqueur factory. The brewery up until recently had been producing 45 million liters of beer, 6 million liters of soft drinks, and 130 thousand tons of ice. About 450 men were employed at this factory. In 1954 the factory was partially disassembled by its French owners. In spite of the abundance of vegetables, fruits, and fish no conserving industry was ever organized in Vietnam. In the near future ~~will begin~~^{will be begun} the construction of the republic's first conserving factories.

1. This factory, which produced 3.6 million meters of silk cloth yearly, was partially disassembled during the war years; formerly it had 234 looms.

Domestic industry plays an important role in the national economy of the republic. The most highly developed ~~industry~~^{are} the textile industry (production of cotton and silk cloth, commercial yarn, and knitted cloth) - more than 40 thousand handicraftsmen are employed at this - the production of agricultural tools, leather products, furniture, pottery, paper and office supplies, and also the production of various foodstuffs (sugar, salt, confectioneries, etc.).

The production of artistic objects from nonferrous metals, wood, ivory, and tortoise-shell, principally for export purposes, is well developed.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, simultaneously with

In Nam-Dinh, as was mentioned above, there is in connection with the textile combine a steam turbine electric power station with a total power capacity of 7.5 thousand ~~xx~~ kilowatts; after it has been supplied with certain parts which were carried off by the French entrepreneurs in ~~xxxx~~ their day it will be ready for exploitation.

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Counting the small electric power stations located in a number of towns, the total installed power capacity of the electric power stations in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by the beginning of 1955 was more than 68 thousand kilowatts. However, this power supply was insufficient for an industry which is growing with every day, for the irrigation systems, and the rehabilitated municipal economies. Therefore the government is making plans for the construction in the near future of a number of new thermal electric power stations designed to supply electric power for both the new industrial enterprises and a number of cities of the republic.

In the regions of the country in which the richest deposits of useful minerals are located there are significant hydroelectric resources; with their use favorable conditions for the development of the mining and processing industries are being created.

The lake Ba-Be, near Kao-Bang, may serve as a probable location point for the construction of a hydroelectric power station with power capacity of up to 32 thousand kilowatts. The water resources of this lake, which is located in the mountains, are replenished by the rivers which flow into it. If a dam about 50 m. high and up to 100 m. long is built on the Song-Nang river, which flows out of the lake, the lake will be transformed into a large natural reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.6 billion cubic meters of water.

Beyond this, it is possible to construct a second hydroelectric power station with a power capacity of up to 14 thousand kilowatts farther down the course of the Song-Nang river, not far from where it flows into the Song-Sam river.

The region around Lake Ba-Be is located at a distance of 160 km. from Hanoi, so this hydroelectric power station could be hooked up to the transmission lines in the delta area.

A hydroelectric power station with power capacity of up to 26 thousand kilowatts could be built also on the Black River at the point Cho-Be, not

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far from the town of Hoa-Binh and at a distance of 100 km. from Hanoi. - In order to form the necessary reservoir a dam about 15 m. high and 300 m. long would have to be constructed.

Aside from this, it is possible to build smaller hydroelectric power stations on a number of the other rivers.

In the course of the War of Resistance the industry of Democratic Vietnam, little developed even without this, suffered significant losses. After the war of Resistance rehabilitation work was commenced on a wide front and the construction of new industrial enterprises was begun. Along with this, the tempo of industrial production in the existent enterprises is growing with every month. The working class of Vietnam is taking an active part in the rehabilitation of the national economy of the country.

The workers of Democratic Vietnam understand that every percent by which the industrial plans for the enterprises are fulfilled and overfulfilled strengthens the national economy of the ~~country~~ republic, hastens its rehabilitation, and increases the welfare of the people.

The competition for the increasing of production on the principles of the rehabilitation of the country's national economy and peaceful construction - begun in May 1953 under the leadership of the Vietnamese Labor Confederation - has acquired significantly wide scope.

In free Vietnam labor has become a matter of honor and praise. The best workers are rewarded with orders and medals of the republic. The government has conferred the ~~title~~ honorary title of Hero of Labor on a number of the production leaders. The production leaders Ngo Zha Kham, Kao Viet Bao, Tam Vinh Thach, Sao Tien and others who began the competition in the war years now have many followers.

In 1954 more than 3 thousand excellent production workers, followers of

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Workers of Labor Ngo Zha Kham, were waiting in the enterprises and factories of Democratic Vietnam. Many workers are taking an active part in the patriotic "campaign for the improvement of quantity of production and for the economizing of materials" and have made valuable rationalizing proposals for the perfecting of technological processes and the lowering of the cost of production.

Since the moment of the liberation of Hanoi the workers of the Do-Bo lamp factory in 1954 overfulfilled their plan every month by 50-150% and economized almost 1.4 million dong in less than one quarter.

With the establishment of peace thousands of people have begun study in numerous educational institutions. The demand for paper for texts, journals, and newspapers has risen sharply. The workers of the paper factories, responding to the appeal of the Workers' Party, have increased production significantly, displaying a great deal of inventiveness. Thus, the Dong-Nam factory in the province of Nghe-An, starting in the middle of 1954, increased its production of paper from 13 thousand to 15-16 thousand sheets per day. Many factory workers are today producing twice as much as they did formerly. Spoilage has been reduced to one percent. One million dong are economized monthly simply by the careful expenditure of coal.

In 1954 the workers of the Lam-Shon paper factory in Thanh-Hoa province made 1216 rationalizing suggestions, as a result of which the factory produced 120% more than in 1953.

The Lma-Viet paper factory in the province of Phu-To overfulfilled its 1954 plan by 11% and produced 30% more than in 1953. The workers of this factory increased their labor productivity significantly - for example, the paper dryers went up from 3500 to 5500 sheets per shift. Working conditions have been improved in the paper factories, kindergartens have been organized, electric lighting has been introduced.

The metalworking shop in Ton-Sa (Ha-Nam province) produced 40 thousand ploughshares in August and September 1954, twice as many in October, and still

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more in November.

By November 1954 55 new enterprises had begun operations in Hanoi - soap, rice-polishing, and tobacco factories, factories for the production of oxygen and machine repair, and others; in November the Administrative Committee of the city had issued more than 60 permits for the opening of new enterprises, shops, and domestic industries.

By the end of 1954 about 700 handicraft shops and enterprises had started work again.

By the beginning of 1955 10 thousand different enterprises and domestic industries over the whole republic had started work again. A great number of enterprises ~~now~~ commenced the production of consumer goods in 1955.

The great length of the territory of Vietnam and the fact that areas in many regions of the country are cut up by mountain ranges and the numerous rivers which flow from west to east determine the great significance of means of communication in the national economy of the country.

The railroads and water routes of communication have the greatest significance. By 1940 there were 2564 km. of railroads on the territory of Vietnam, including 1172 km. in the area north of the 17th parallel. All the railroads of Vietnam were built as single-track lines with a gauge of 1000 mm.

The basic railroad trunk line of the country is ~~is~~ the so-called Transindochina Railroad - cut the whole country from north to south, along the seashore - from the Chinese border at the town of Nam-Kuan to Saigon. A second railroad, constructed in North Vietnam, joined the city of Lao-Kai with Haiphong ~~by~~ way of Hanoi. In the south of the country there were three small local roads - from Saigon to Lok-Vinh, Hai-De and Lok-Pon, and to the north, in the Hongkai region, a network of routes designed for the transporting of coal.

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In 1930 total passenger travel on the railroads of Vietnam comprised 386 million passenger-kilometers and the transport of freight and baggage - 171 ton-kilometers.

In the war years all of the railroads of the country were put out of commission except for the Hanoi-Haiphong route 104 km. long and the roads in the Saigon region. The Vietnamese themselves destroyed the majority of the roads in order to hinder French troop movements. The station installations, means of communication, the upper parts of the railroad beds, and even, in many sections, the embankments were completely destroyed. The majority of the bridges were blown up.

As a result the railroads had to be built all over again after the war. Within three months after the conclusion of the Geneva agreements rehabilitation and construction work on the Hanoi-Nam-Kuan route had developed on a broad front in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam with the brotherly help of the railroad men of the Chinese People's Republic.

In their day the French took 12 years to build this railroad. Now, within four months after the beginning of construction work, regular rail communications have been reestablished on a section 187 km. in length. This was genuinely popular construction. 65 thousand people labored in its construction. In a short time 187 km. of passenger and station lines, 50 bridges, 21 stations, and 157 km. of lines of communication were built.

The railroad men of free Vietnam are working with great enthusiasm. In December 1954, in the construction of the Hanoi-Nam-Kuan railroad, the navy Tyong dug 10 cubic meters of earth in just one working day.

The steam engine No. 105, "Mikado" type, furnished to France as part of American "aid", arrived in Hanoi at the end of 1953. However, in July 1954 this engine was ~~blown~~ blown up and put out of commission by Vietnamese partisans. After the end of the War of Resistance the workers of the Thia-Lam railroad depot rehabilitated this engine in a short time and it was used ~~in~~

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in the construction of the Hanoi-Nam-Kuan railroad. This was the first steam engine released by the depot after the war.

Normal rail communications were reestablished on the Hanoi - Nam-Kuan section in February 1955. Direct freight and passenger rail service between Hanoi and Peking was opened in August 1955. This was possible not only because the construction workers on the railroad sustained a high tempo ^{of work} but also because of the labor of the patriots of the Hanoi-Lam depot, who worked day and night in order to supply the railroad with the necessary quantity of ~~xx~~ railroad cars and engines.

In 1955 the reconstruction of the roads joining Hanoi with Lao-Kay (235 km.) and with Nam-Dinh (78 km.) ~~xxxx~~ was begun. A great deal of earth work remains to be done, as the railroad embankments were almost completely destroyed. It is necessary to construct and rebuild many bridges, including such large ones as the four-span metal bridge 300 m. long and about 30 m. high near Viet-Tri, a bridge more than 200 m. long near the town of Phu-Li, and others. In 1956 it is planned to reconstruct the lines from Nam-Dinh to Sholon at the 17th parallel, for which it will be necessary to lay more than 500 km. of rail and build 20 large bridges.

In this way the railroads on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam will be almost completely rehabilitated in 1956.

Water communications routes play an especially large role in the national economy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, on whose territory ~~there~~ are many rivers. Their total length is about 5 thousand km. In Bak-bo alone the total length of the rivers exceeds 3500 km. To the north of Thanh-Hoa province many rivers are connected by canals.

In the southern part of the country the Mekong and Bassak rivers, with their arms and connecting canals in the delta region, are the principle ones used for transportation purposes.

Over significant distances the navigability of many rivers is limited.

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because of the abundance of rapids, cliffs, and waterfalls. Besides, a great many of the rivers are not even deep enough for the passage of junks. The length of the navigable river routes with a depth of 0.8 meters and more (the most frequent depth is about 2.5 meters) on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is only about 2100 km.

~~Indochina River and Delta Region~~ In the delta region the Red River is navigable, but it has to be cleared of deposits regularly. The French colonizers did not bother themselves with the improvement of navigable routes on the rivers and did not carry out the necessary blasting and dredging operations. As a result even the Red River is navigable only as far as Van-Thu (6 km. from Ien-Bay), the Black River for a distance of 100 km. - from the point where it flows into the Red River to Cho-Bon- and the Clear River only as far as Tuyen-Kuang.

Among the canals the Bamboo canal and the Canal of Rapids, connecting the arms of the Red River, possess the greatest significance. The towns of Thanh-Nha and Vinh are connected with each other by a canal dug along the seashore at the beginning of the XIX century. This canal is very important for the transportation of rice from one province to another, especially during the typhoon period, when traffic on the sea is impossible. During the war years the canal was partially clogged with sand and stands in need of clearing.

The seashore of Vietnam stretches for more than 2300 km. The sea ports are located mainly at the mouths of the large rivers. One of the largest ports of Vietnam is located at Haiphong, on the territory of Democratic Vietnam. This port, which has a great number of moorages and warehouse accommodations, is designed for a freight turnover of up to 1.6 million tons per year, but it can only take ships of displacement up to 7500 tons as a result of the fact that the depth of the port does not exceed 7.5 meters.

The systematic formation of deposits of sand and silt is the port's great defect. Dredging work must be carried out every year and 1.5-2 million cubic

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meters of deposited material must be disposed of. As a result, even in years when the port is working at maximum capacity the expenses for its upkeep are many times greater than the total receipts.

If the alluvial deposits in the river are caught above Haiphong and diverted through a drainage canal the chief defect of this important port will be eliminated. The French colonizers attempted to solve this problem and began the construction of a canal in 1942, but they soon ceased work. There is no doubt that the free Vietnamese people will accomplish the work which the French colonizers could not see through.

There are two more ports near Haiphong - in Hongai and Kam-Pha - which belong to the Tonkin Coal Company and which were used exclusively for the exporting of coal from the coal fields.

A port designed for a freight turnover of up to 40, thousand tons per year and the handling of ships of up to 400 ton displacement was built 8 km. from the mouth of the Song-Ka River, in the town of ~~Ban-Bu~~ Ben-Tui (Nga-An province). This port was used by fishing boats and for the receipt of freight for the central regions of the country. During the war its installations were destroyed. The active rehabilitation of the port facilities and the clearing of the river were begun at the first of 1955. The port will soon be ready for use.

Aside from these ports there are small docks for fishing junks along the shore of the sea.

The large seaport of South Vietnam is located on the Saigon River, in the city of Cho-Lon, 35 km. from the sea. The length of the port facilities is about 6 km.

Thus, there are few seaports in Vietnam. At the same time, large ports may be built in the future at a number of points along the shore. Near the hamlet of Vat-Chai, north of Haiphong, there is a bay 15 m. deep, well protected from typhoons on the sea side by numerous islands and not subject

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to the ~~laying down~~ ^{accumulation} of river deposits. Nam-Ren¹, located on the road from Singapore to Hongkong, possesses a large, deep, and well protected bay².

1. In 1904 the bay ^{accommodated} the entire Russian military squadron which ~~khukhukhukh~~ was on its way to the Far East.

Auto transport in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam began its rapid development only after the end of the war. Before the war there were about 3200 km. of automobile roads on the territory of the republic. In the period of military actions almost all the roads were destroyed both by the Vietnamese themselves, who dug up alternate sections of the passable part in order to hinder the movements of the enemy, and by the French forces, who subjected individual parts of the main roads to bombardment from the ~~air~~ air.

At the present time rehabilitation work has attained wide scope in road building as well as in industry. In the course of the war the reconstruction of the roads was begun immediately as soon as individual regions of the country were liberated. The population took an active part in this work. This fact will bear witness to the extent of the work on the rehabilitation of the roads: from 1951 to 1954 alone 30 million man-days were expended on the rehabilitation of roads, including 20 million man-days in 1954 alone. In order to appreciate the quantity of labor, deprivation, and selflessness represented by these figures one should remember how this great work was carried on - with pick, motyka, and wooden hammer, carrying fill and rock in baskets on a yoke, under the rays of the tropical sun or under ~~rain~~ pelting downpours and often at night in order to escape the French bombers. By the beginning of 1955 the network of rehabilitated ~~roads~~ and newly reconstructed roads had been brought up to 4500 km.

In the last 5 months of 1954 alone 2700 km. of roads and bridges with a total length of more than 3.5 km. had been built and reconstructed. The metal bridge Tao on road no. 10 not far from Nam-Dinh, 50 meters long, was rebuilt in less than a month and the large bridge Do-Len on the Song-Ma River

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in two months.

The reconstruction of ruined cities is being begun simultaneously with the execution of rehabilitation work in industry and transport.

All municipal services began to work efficiently shortly after the cessation of military actions in the cities which were not destroyed or which were affected only partially.

In 1955 was begun the reconstruction of the ruined cities, the construction of a number of electric power stations and waterworks, schools and hospitals, and administrative buildings.

One could adduce tens and hundreds of examples of the selfless labor of the Vietnamese workers and peasants. But even from the examples given above it is evident how great are the power of patriotic enthusiasm in the country, the tempos of reconstruction work, and the fervor of creative work on the part of the liberated people.

POOR ORIGINAL**TRADE AND FINANCE**

Before the war Vietnam imported many consumer goods as well as materials which were needed in various branches of the economy and, in particular, for the work of industrial enterprises and domestic industries.

The items brought into Vietnam were goods designated primarily for the expeditionary force and French personnel or goods and articles which had not been sold on French markets. Valuable minerals and agricultural products were exported from the country.

The French monopolies did not strive to preserve an equilibrium in the foreign trade balance of Vietnam, and for this reason exports always exceeded imports. Thus, in the commodity circulation of Indo-China, of which commodity circulation in Vietnam comprises 90%, the excess of exports over imports was equal to 18% of the total amount of commodity circulation. All the profits from foreign trade were appropriated by the French monopolists.

The foreign trade balance in the various parts of Vietnam was not the same. South Vietnam was the chief exporter and in the north exports comprised less than half of the total imports, which is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ witnessed to by these figures on the shares of the regions of the country in foreign trade for 1959 (in %):

	Imports	Exports
North Vietnam.....	42	18
Central Vietnam.....	1	2
South Vietnam.....	57	80

South Vietnam exported primarily agricultural products, comprising ~~80%xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ about 80% of the total exports. The most important export articles were rice and rubber. Up to 1.5 million tons of rice and about 70 thousand tons of rubber were exported every year. Consumer goods, raw materials, and materials and equipment used in South Vietnam were imported.

From the territory of North Vietnam were exported useful minerals - coal, ores and concentrates of nonferrous metals, as well as cement and a number of

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technical crops (coffee, tea, varnishes, etc). Import items were such goods as cotton and yarn, rolled ferrous and nonferrous metals, petrol and oil, and various metal and textile items, although many of those goods could have been produced or obtained in the country.

Upon the proclaiming of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the entire development of the national economy was directed toward the ~~the~~ satisfaction of the demands of the people.

After the end of the War of Resistance domestic and foreign trade took on great significance as a means for the rehabilitation of the national economy, the strengthening of the financial system of the ~~country~~ republic, and the raising of the welfare of the people. The government adopted a number of measures for the broadening of commodity exchange within the country and the development of economic ties with friendly countries on conditions of mutual interest and advantage.

Beginning in 1954 the Democratic Republic of Vietnam commenced ~~the~~ to export, on a broad basis, timber, tin, tea, coffee, spices, fruits, and other commodities. With the funds obtained from the sale of these goods the republic is buying up industrial goods, materials, and equipment necessary for the reconstruction of the national economy. In 1955 the economic ties of the republic with other friendly countries were widened even more.

Domestic trade is undergoing active development in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In the period of French rule in Vietnam private traders ~~exclusively~~ exclusively took part in commodity circulation. The organization of state trade was begun after the establishment of the people's democratic system in the country. In 1954 the share of the state sector in commodity circulation was 20%. The people's government adopted a number of measures for the development of trade as a result of which the commodity circulation of the republic in 1954 increased by 60% in comparison with 1953. By the beginning of 1955 100 state stores handling foodstuffs, fabrics and other industrial goods, and

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timber had been opened in the cities. The city population is supplied with rice- the basic foodstuff - through the network of state stores. In a number of provinces even by 1955 the share of state trade in the ~~sale~~ sale of the most essential goods to the population had risen to 60-80%, which was favorably reflected both in the satisfaction of the needs of the population and in the stabilization of prices on the domestic market, since the prices in the state stores are set at the center. In the national economy plan for 1955 it was planned to increase the share of the state sector in the total commodity circulation of the republic to 40% by the end of the year.

The regulation of prices on the domestic market is effected principally through the government's establishing firm prices for rice, which plays the role of a basic price equivalent.

Besides the further broadening of the network of state commerce the Workers' Party and the people's government are using private trade in the interest of the national economy, encouraging the development of the sale of goods needed by the population.

For the purpose of better supplying the population with the most necessary goods the administrative organs have recommended to a number of merchants who formerly sold goods designed only for the satisfaction of the needs of the expeditionary force and now not needed by the population that they change their assortment of goods or invest capital in industrial enterprises under favorable conditions and with state credit furnished.

Many merchants responded to this measure. Thus, in Hanoi, by the end of 1954 more than 900 stores and ¹⁰⁰⁵ varying industrial enterprises were opened, and in January 1955 - more than 350. A number of merchants and entrepreneurs invested their funds in the production of sugar, construction materials, paper, soap, nails, bicycles, and other goods of which there is a great lack.

Besides this the government has taken measures for the increasing of the imports of goods. In October 1954 the imports of goods comprised 500 million

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dongs; in January 1955 they had increased to 1200 million dongs. The exports of goods, in turn, increased from 100 million dongs in October 1954 to 800 million dongs in January 1955. In this way the excess of imports over exports was decreased more than 3 times, which also assisted the improvement of commodity circulation.

A special bureau of communications and information has been opened ^{in Hanoi} to aid the development of industrial enterprise and the broadening of commodity circulation. This bureau will ~~aid~~ help government and private organizations and individual ~~entrepreneurs~~ entrepreneurs in making known their needs for industrial production and goods and their realization.

In 1954, in fulfilment of the Geneva agreements, parts of the French expeditionary forces abandoned regions which they had occupied on the territory of ~~the~~ Democratic Vietnam (except for the Haiphong zone, which was given over to the Vietnamese government in May 1955, in accord with the Geneva agreements). The economic situation of these regions was ^{grave} ~~serious~~. The population of the regions which had been ^{newly} ~~recently~~ liberated was not supplied with foodstuffs and consumer goods. The prices for the most necessary goods were considerably higher than in the regions of the country which had been liberated from the occupiers in the course of the War of Resistance. To the extent that more regions of the country were liberated the government of the republic took measures for the supplying of their population with foodstuffs and the most essential commodities.

Thanks to the measures indicated above and a number of others in the field of production and trade the prices for the basic goods had been stabilized by the first of 1955 with a mutual balance struck between the prices in the free and the newly liberated regions of the republic.

Trade in the south of Vietnam was arranged completely differently after the conclusion of the Geneva agreements. During the period of the War of Resistance commodity circulation in the liberated regions of South Vietnam was

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broadened, state trade was organized, and the population was supplied with foodstuffs. However, supplying the population with fabrics, dishware, agricultural tools and other consumer goods was difficult since many of these goods were produced in regions temporarily occupied by the French forces and trade between the liberated and occupied regions had been blockaded by decision of the government of Democratic Vietnam.

For the purpose of better supplying the population with the most necessary goods the government of Democratic Vietnam since 1950 has changed its trade relations with the regions occupied by the enemy, with the result that during the time from 1950 to the middle of 1954 the population of the liberated regions of Nam-bo ~~xxx~~ sold food products to the tune of 800 million Indo-Chinese piastres¹ and bought, in the regions occupied by the French forces, textiles, tools, and utensils worth a total of about 700 million piastres.

1. In the years of the War of Resistance dongs issued by the government of the republic were in circulation in the liberated regions of the country and piastres in the occupied regions. After the cessation of military actions the dongs which were in circulation during the War of Resistance were withdrawn and destroyed after they had been exchanged for piastres. When the country was divided into two parts two currencies were established - dongs in the north (with new banknotes) and piastres in the south (at the first of 1955 a piastre was worth 35-40 dongs or 10 French francs).

After the cessation of military actions the government of South Vietnam concluded an agreement with France aimed at ~~the~~ increasing the imports of goods into the country and fixed favorable customs rates for the French importers. However, although the number of kinds of goods imported to South Vietnam from France had even increased by the end of 1954 by approximately 20% in comparison with prewar imports, the population is suffering under great difficulties. The reason for this is that the French monopolists are importing principally luxury items into South Vietnam and least of all consumer

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goods which are needful to the population. Along with this, the French importers are striving to engage in competitive buying of rubber. In this matter the interests of the French and American monopolies collide. American business circles are ~~striving~~ endeavoring to increase their influence in South Vietnam and are taking measures for the purchase of the production of the rubber plantations and the limiting of the imports of French goods.

The struggle of the monopolies for the sources of raw materials and for markets has an adverse effect on the economy of South Vietnam. Commodity circulation and the prices for goods are not stabilized and the demands of the population for many goods are not satisfied. In addition, after the cessation of military actions and the division of the country the economic ties which have existed since time immemorial between the south and the north of the country were disrupted and the population of South Vietnam was deprived of the possibility, which it had had formerly, of obtaining many goods and products which the Democratic Republic of Vietnam possesses.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has ~~more~~ more than once proclaimed its readiness to restore normal economic ties with the south, but the government of Ngo Dinh Diem has stubbornly turned down these proposals, to the detriment of the interests of the people.

In the years 1946-1950 the Ministry of Finances issued banknotes in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and carried out all operations for the financing of the national economy in the liberated areas of the country.

In 1951 the State Bank of the Republic, which became the issue center, was formed. The bank performs all operations connected with financial accounts and short-term credit in the national economy. Some taxes have been gradually introduced, as for example: a natural agricultural tax, a turnover tax for industrial and commercial enterprises, an operating^(?) tax from state,

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negotiable

cooperative, and private enterprises, customs rates for export and import goods, a land tax in the cities which is imposed on the owners of plots of land. The tax level is not high, since the government of the republic is striving to create favorable conditions for the development of industry and trade.

With the introduction of the single agricultural tax the numerous taxes for which the peasants were formerly assessed were liquidated. Those plots of land which were sown by the peasants in addition to through the plowing of fallow land, ~~ensuring~~ supplying irrigation for land through their own efforts, and the rehabilitation of marshy regions as well as peasant farms which yield small harvests were exempted from the agricultural tax. For the purpose of encouraging the production of technical crops demanded for domestic consumption and export purposes, the farms occupied with the growing of technical crops were granted supplementary privileges.

As the deputy Prime Minister of the republic Fam Van Dong stated in 1953, the tax policy instituted in the Democratic Vietnam "aids the raising of the level of production, which in turn assists the increase of our national income, the improvement of the ~~material~~ material situation of the people, and the development of our national industry".

Thanks to the execution of democratic reforms and the rehabilitation of a number of enterprises, thanks to the accomplishment of a number of measures for the stabilization of prices and the broadening of commodity circulation, the financial situation of the country is becoming stronger. As a result of this, for example, it is planned to increase the income side of the budget of the republic in 1955 by 81% in comparison with 1954. It is planned to increase the income from state enterprises and organizations alone by more than 10 times. The share of budgetary investments in the national economy grew significantly in 1955. The basic capital investments go for the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation installations and rail transport. Expenses for public health, education, cultural development, and social security have increased

~~more~~ more than three times over.

In this way the budget of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam reflects the policies of the government of the republic, which are aimed at the development of the national economy and the national welfare before anything else.

The picture is different in the south of Vietnam. In connection with the formation of a 90 thousand man army by the Ngo Dinh Diem government, an army supplied with American technical equipment, and the existence of a large administrative apparatus, expenses are continually growing ^{while} at the same time that the obtaining of income for the budget of South Vietnam is fraught with great difficulties. American "aid", comprising more than 2400 million dollars from 1952 to 1954, was spent exclusively for military purposes. In connection with this the Ngo Dinh Diem government is increasing the number of taxes which it assesses on the population.

There have been introduced, for example, a national defense tax, a tax for the security of the country exacted from the whole population, a sanitary tax, a tax for continuous residence, for the number of windows in a house, for roosters and dogs, for buffalo and bulls. Even corpulent people have to pay a special tax.

By 1955 income from direct taxes comprised 80 % of all the income of the South Vietnam budget. One should add that the numerous political parties and religious sects also collect various "taxes" and prestations from the population.

In this way there are sharp contrasts between the south and the north of Vietnam even in the realm of finances. In the Democratic Republic of Vietnam we have the strengthening of the financial system and the development of the national economy, in South Vietnam -, a budget which is coming apart at the seams and the impoverishment of the masses of the people.

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EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The rehabilitation of the national economy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is inextricably connected with the development of education and culture.

During the period of the colonial regime the Vietnamese had no access to education. Only 0.8 % of the total population was studying in the elementary schools and about 0.3% in the high schools. Hundreds of thousands of children and young people remained out of school. The population was almost completely illiterate.

After the establishment of the people's democratic system in the country the government and the Workers' Party engaged in a struggle against illiteracy - the shameful heritage of the past. This task in the field of education is one of the most important tasks. The system of popular education in Democratic Vietnam was constructed on three principles: genuinely popular education, equally accessible to all nationalities; universal education; scientific organization of the learning process.

In 1950 a reform in the system of education was carried out. In accordance with the reform law ~~there were established~~ a nine-year period of study was established and schools of the first, second, and third ranks were formed, with periods of study of 4, 3, and 2 years respectively. Studies in the native language and according to a unified program were introduced everywhere. For the purpose of using the experience of Soviet schools more than 30 standard textbooks were translated from Russian into Vietnamese.

In the regions of Vietnam which had been liberated from the occupiers about 14 million people, or almost two-thirds of the total population of the country, learned to read and write during the war years. A great deal of work was done among the national minorities, many of which received a written language for the first time.

With the end of the War of Resistance work in the field of popular education in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was activated to a special degree. By the end of 1954 more than 4200 elementary, junior high, and high schools, in which were studying 730 thousand students, were in operation in the republic. Aside from that, more than 400 thousand children were learning the alphabet.

Such ~~fi~~ examples as these will also bear witness to the scope of the work on universal education being carried on. On the Bak-Zyan section of the construction of the Hanoi - Nam-Kuan railroad alone 69 classes of a school of general education, in which 90 instructors taught 1150 workers, were organized at the end of 1954, and on the Kau-Moy section almost all the workers attended classes in morning or evening schools.

In Tanh-Hoa province up until 1945 there was only one school of the second rank for 1.2 million inhabitants, but by the beginning of 1955 more than 80 such schools were operating in the province; formerly there was not a single school of the third class, but now there are 4.

Before the revolution higher education was almost inaccessible ^{to} for the people.

On 19 January 1955, in the presence of Ho Chi Minh, Fam Van Dong, and other members of the government there was held in Hanoi the ~~triumphant~~ triumphant opening of the State University.

This was a genuinely national holiday, for for the first time in the history of the country the lecture halls of the university were filled with workers, peasants, soldiers, and officers of the People's Army. At present about 1 thousand persons are studying in the faculties of social and natural sciences and in the medico-pharmaceutical faculty of the university.

In 1955 more than 1100 persons were studying in six technical and special schools.

At the beginning of 1955 was created the so-called People's University,

where 1300 persons having junior high school and high school educations are studying the social sciences and preparing for entrance into the technical schools and the university.

The growing network of elementary and high schools and schools for the liquidation of illiteracy among the adult population demand large numbers of instructors.

Therefore the preparation of instructors was organized not only in the university but also in the pedagogical schools. At the beginning of 1955 1900 persons were studying in such schools and during the course of the year the number of students increased even more.

By the beginning of 1955 22 newspapers and magazines were published in the republic. The quantity of books published in various fields of knowledge, textbooks, and editions of the works of Vietnamese prose writers and ~~the~~ poets and the classics of world literature is ~~gax~~ growing with every month. In 1954 the ~~xxx~~ printing houses of the republic published 362 thousand copies of various textbooks for the beginning of the school year; this is three times as many as in 1952 and 1953 taken together.

The national art began to be developed rapidly from the very first months of the liberation of the country. Concerts of the ~~xxxxx~~ ensemble of the Vietnamese army, containing 300 singers, dancers, and musicians, enjoy a great deal of popularity. About 800 actors included in 23 state theatrical groups are acquainting the people with the best products of ~~the~~ theatrical art.

In December 1954 there was held in Hanoi a review of the artistic achievements of the artistic collectives of Vietnam. About 1100 persons representing 25 nationalities both of the south and of the north, people of differing professions and ages demonstrated the ~~max~~ skill and talents of the Vietnamese people. On the days when concerts or film showings were given, up to 10 thousand spectators filled the open public theater, which was built in Hanoi in

the beginning of 1955.

More than 50 movie theaters are operating in the cities of the republic; in them are shown the best films turned out by the film industries of the Soviet Union and also the ~~film~~ Chinese People's Republic and the other countries of people's democracy.

For the first time in the history of Vietnam the movies are penetrating into the countryside. 23 mobile movie groups were operating in the villages of the republic by the first of 1955.

An Administration for ^{Film} the Production of ~~Films~~ has been organized under the Ministry of Propaganda. A number of topical films made with the ~~xxx~~ brotherly aid of workers in the Chinese film industry, the film "Battle for Dien-Bien-Phu", which has clearly ^{recorded} ~~preserved~~ the episodes of this historic combat, and the artistic-documentary film "Vietnam", made by the Soviet operators R. Kar-men, V. Yeshurin, and Ye. Mukhin along with the operators of the Vietnamese studio Nguen Hun Ngi, May Lok, Nguen Tien Loy, and Kuang Lun, possess great social and political significance and are viewed with interest not only by the Vietnamese but also by hundreds of thousands of onlookers in the USSR as well as in China and the other countries of people's democracy.

Other ~~branches~~ of the arts are also being developed. Even during the war years there was in operation a school of the fine arts, which organized permanent and travelling exhibitions of the works of Vietnamese artists.

The art exhibition opened in Hanoi at the end of 1954 aroused a great deal of interest. The many canvases of Vietnamese artists depicting the feats of the people during the war, their peaceful labor, ~~and~~ and the striking natural beauty of Vietnam demonstrated convincingly that an ever greater number of the artistic workers of the republic are freeing themselves from the influence of bourgeois formalistic art and are setting out on the road of realism.

The public of the capital of the ~~xxx~~ republic received with approval

the award of the grand prize to artist To Ngok Van and to artist Nguyen Hiem as well as the presentation of awards ~~in~~ for the works of 20 other participants in this exhibition.

There are many historic monuments in Democratic Vietnam. The government of the republic has adopted a special resolution on their preservation and has organized reconstruction work on the monuments which were damaged during the course of the war. Thus, the forces of the Bao Dai army attempted to blow up the well known "Pagoda on a Pedestal" in Hanoi, a noteworthy monument of Vietnamese culture, but they succeeded in destroying it only partially. In November 1954, at the behest of the government of the republic, a group of cultural ~~aw~~ workers inspected this monument and worked out a plan for its reconstruction. Reconstruction work on this project has already begun.

In the program of the Workers' Party in the field of culture and education the tasks of educating the Vietnamese people in the spirit of patriotism and internationalism, hatred for the colonizers, the development of ~~Viet~~ Vietnamese national culture, the study of the achievements of the progressive culture of the world, especially that of the USSR and China, the development of the culture of the national minorities, science, technology, and art, and the liquidation of illiteracy have been set.

These tasks are being successfully carried out by the people of Vietnam.

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

When you become acquainted with the plans for the rehabilitation of different branches of the national economy of Democratic Vietnam, when you look over the newspapers of various political parties and public organizations published in Hanoi and in other cities of the republic, when you talk with builders, peasants, or workers, when you listen to the speeches at the meetings and assemblies of the people's representatives - you always, regardless of the character of the question being discussed of the subject being considered, notice that the main and basic thing in the foreign and domestic policies of the republic is the people's love of peace, its striving for peaceful labor, and its readiness to defend the peace.

At the beginning of February 1955 when the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, true to its peace-loving policies, announced its readiness to reestablish normal economic and cultural ties between the north and the south of the country, the Central Committee of the National Front of Lien-Viet enthusiastically supported this initiative in the name of all the ~~px~~ parties and organizations in its ranks. The announcement of the government of the republic, which was backed up by a number of practical measures aimed at ensuring ~~un~~ unhindered communication between the north and the south of the country, gave the lie to the propaganda organs of the Ngo Dinh Diem government and the colonizing circles, ~~which asserted that Democratic Vietnam had set~~ up a "bamboo curtain" along the 17th parallel.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam holds that the establishment of ties between both parts of the country would be in the interest of the Vietnamese people. If one wishes to talk about artificial barriers, then these are what is being created by the puppet powers in the south, who fear the establishment of economic and cultural ties and the joining of the disunited people.

But it is not only the readiness of the government of the republic to establish ties between both parts of the country which gives the lie to the reactionary tale of the "Bamboo curtain". At the basis of the relations between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and other countries lie five principles enunciated in joint declarations of the Chinese People's Republic and India and the Chinese People's Republic and Burma, viz.: mutual respect for territorial integrity and ^esovereignty, nonaggression, noninterference in ~~the~~ one another's internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage, and peaceful coexistence. ² Democratic Vietnam also is broadening its economic and cultural ties with other countries on the ~~basis~~ basis of these principles.

The republic has established diplomatic relations with 11 governments already. The government of the republic has made it plain more than once that it stands ready to establish diplomatic relations based on friendship and mutual respect with other countries also, including even France. Thus, in November 1954 Ho Chi Minh, in answer to the French journalist Quinman, pointed out that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is ready to establish economic and cultural relations with France if they are founded on the principles of equality and mutual advantage. In his answers to the questions of Jean Marie Le Ball, correspondent of the French newspaper "Regard", in December 1954, Ho Chi Minh emphasized: "We desire the establishment of ~~economic~~ economic and cultural relations with France on the basis of equality, mutual advantage, direct cooperation, and mutual trust. It is quite natural that we ^{should} have brotherly relations with the countries belonging to the democratic camp. At the same time we desire the establishment of friendly relations with all other countries, first of all with the countries of Asia".¹

1. "Nyan-Dan", 14 December 1954.

The French colonial regime brought much suffering and many deprivations to the Vietnamese people. Nevertheless the Vietnamese, having won their independence with arms in hand, are ready to recognize the existence of French

economic interests in Vietnam under conditions of mutual advantage.

An example of this readiness for cooperation is the talks between the economic delegations of Democratic Vietnam and France which took place in the first half of December 1954; as a result of these talks agreement was reached on the continuation of the activity of the French enterprises located on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.¹ According to the agreement French commercial and industrial enterprises are preserved in their existing form or in the form of mixed enterprises with the participation of Vietnamese ~~government~~ government or private capital. A number of privileges are granted to these enterprises in the way of free recruiting of labor, unkindered sale of production on the markets of the country, etc. Aside from this, it was provided that these enterprises, regardless of their form, should be granted privileges in the field of finances for the purchasing of tools and raw materials necessary for productive activity ^{from} in other countries.

This agreement was received in a positive manner by the Vietnamese and French publics. In the commentaries in the pages of the Hanoi papers "Nyan-Dan", "Lien-Hiep", "Thoy-Moy", "Song-Hong" and a number of French papers the granting of favorable conditions for normal activity to the French industrial enterprises and the absence of tax, juridical, and other limitations were noted.

1. (note: goes one paragraph up) The consultants on the French side were headed by Jean Santainie, who in the middle of December 1954 ~~was~~ was appointed by the government of France as the Chief Representative of France to the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The policies of the people's government, aimed at the improvement of the national economy and the raising of ~~the~~ material and cultural levels, are greeted with widespread support from all levels of the population. Thus, in December 1954, after the Hanoi agreement, 250 industrialists and merchants made it known to Ho Chi Minh, the government of the republic, and the Central Committee of the Lien-Viet front, that after studying the policies of the

government in the fields of industry and commerce they had decided to subordinate their activity to the tasks of this new stage in the development of the country and take an active part in the construction of the independent economy of Vietnam. They appealed to all the industrialists and merchants of the republic to support their decision and channel the work of their enterprises in the interests of the state, asserting that "the interests of the state are the interests of the entrepreneurs".

At a conference of the cadre workers of the Democratic Party of Vietnam¹ which took place in November 1954 with the participation of numerous representatives of the central and local organs of that party including representatives from South Vietnam, a resolution was unanimously adopted in which it is stated that all the levels of the population of Vietnam from the south to the north are consolidating and uniting for the struggle against the intrigues of the reactionary circles which are striving to destroy the peace in Vietnam. The commercial and industrial circles and the intelligentsia of Vietnam are firmly striving for peace and unanimously announce that they protest against the interference of the imperialists in the affairs of Indo-China and that they support the peace-loving policies of the government of Democratic Vietnam.

The policies of the government of Democratic Vietnam enjoy the widespread support of the numerous national minorities. During the years of colonial rule the national minorities of Vietnam had no rights whatsoever. Now wide prospects for untrammelled national development are open before them. Their rights, customs, ~~peculiarities and features~~ and the peculiar features of their language and culture, and their religious convictions have been taken under the protection of the state. The People's government is taking measures to raise the standard of living in a short time in the mountain regions of the country, which are primarily inhabited by the national minorities.

* 1. (note: goes one paragraph up) The Democratic Party of Vietnam represents the interests for the most part of the intelligentsia, the industrialists,

and the commercial circles of Vietnam.

At the beginning of 1955, at a reception for 600 representatives of 65 different nationalities of Vietnam, the president of the republic Ho Chi Minh announced that in 1955 the government ~~xx~~ would create autonomous national regions in the north-west of Vietnam, after which the same sort of regions would be created in other places also. After the unanimous approval of this policy by the National Assembly of the republic the first autonomous region in the country, Thai-Meo², was created in May 1955; this region~~x~~ has its ~~xx~~ own administrative organs which have the right to make local laws.

2. ~~xx~~ Thai and Meo are national minorities living in the northwest of the country.

It was mentioned above that reactionary circles in the south of the country are attempting to use religion in order to split the nation and disrupt the peace. However, ~~the~~ religious workers in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam for the most part support the policies of the people's government. Thus, for example, when the reactionary circles of South Vietnam at the end of 1954 started their campaign of provocation for the evacuation of Catholics from the north to the south of Vietnam, the religious workers called on all the believers of the republic to be vigilant and repulse any attempts to destroy the unity of the people. The bishop of Bak-Ninh province ~~xxxx~~ Hoang Van Doan, at a meeting of 120 representatives of the Catholics of the province, summoned the Catholics to expose the villainous ~~xx~~ propaganda of the reactionaries of South Vietnam who, promising the believers among the population of the republic land and "soul's salvation" in the South, are attempting to coerce them into evacuating and to break the armistice.

A great number of religious workers who joined the national liberation movement even during the course of the war are assisting in exposing plots against independence and peace. Included among them are the Catholic priest ~~xx~~ Ban Ba Chyk, who became a part of the revolutionary movement long ago and

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as early as 1946 was chosen as a deputy to the National Assembly of the republic and since 1951 has been the assistant to the president of the National Front of Lien-Viet; the priest Vu Suan Ki, who headed the Catholic participants in the resistance movement; Fam ~~The~~ The Long, the leader of the Buddhist association of national salvation; and many other representatives of religious groups who are actively working for the rallying of the masses of the people of the republic, ~~xxxxxxx~~ regardless of their religious and political convictions, for the purpose of ensuring the peace.

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At a time when in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam order and tranquility have been restored, work for the rehabilitation of the national economy has been started, and the government is one with the people in the implementation of the aims of the building of a free and independent state, the people are continuing to undergo great suffering in the South.

Even at the beginning of 1949 Bao Dai, the henchman of French capital and the Vietnamese collaborationists, took upon himself the title of head of state.

Bao Dai's period in power has lain a ~~s~~ heavy burden on the shoulders of the ~~xxx~~ people. The American magazine "Crisis", calling Bao Dai the "jolly fellow at the head of state", calculated that he cost the taxpayers approximately 9 million dollars per year.

Decay and corruption rule in the government of South Vietnam. By the admission of the French bourgeois press Bao Dai represents only himself and his government, headed by Ngo Dinh Diem, was formed from men who have no right to represent the people and are not ~~xx~~ carrying on policies which are in the interests of the Vietnamese people.

Along with this, South Vietnam has become an arena for the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ collisions of French and American interests. It was not for nothing that in

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1944, on the eve of the Geneva conference, for several days wolfram rose appreciably in price in London, the monopolies of the USA renewed their stockpiling of reserves of strategic raw materials, and the Paris weekly "France Observer" published an article under the title of "Indo-China Boom on the Raw Materials Market". In this article it was stated: "Today it has become clear that the future development of the large markets for raw materials is inextricably connected with the results of the forthcoming Geneva conference..."

In those same days the newspaper "New York Times" wrote: "We have exerted great pressure on the French to continue the war with the Communists instead of seeking channels for talks. The continuation of the war has vital significance for our interests in this sector."

However, as is well known, as a result of the struggle for peace being carried on by the peoples of many countries, thanks to the positive efforts of the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and a number of other governments which took part in the Geneva Conference, military actions in Indo-China ceased.

But the struggle of the foreign monopolies for the possession of the key positions in South Vietnam has not ceased.

By the end of 1954 two American petroleum companies, the "Florida" phosphate company, representatives of the steel trust "Bethlehem Steel", the mixed French and American companies "Nam-Hao", "Indo-Chinese Company", and ~~others~~ others were working actively in the south of the country. Aside from that, as was mentioned above, the Americans, buying up the stock of the French rubber plantations, are squeezing French capital out of that field of the economy of South Vietnam.

The activity of the American monopolies in May 1955 caused such a sharpening of the internal political situation in South Vietnam that the French governing circles were faced with the threat of the loss of all their positions.

The prime minister of the "annexed state" of Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem and

the government which he heads are a weapon in this policy of squeezing French capital out of South Vietnam and the consolidation of American capital.

Ngo ~~Diem~~ Dinh Diem lived in the USA for many years and has close ties with Catholic circles. He has established a regime of terror and force in the south of Vietnam, calculating that the merciless repression of democratic forces and opposition elements will strengthen his regime and assure the transfer of the key positions in the economy of South Vietnam to American capital.

However, the realization of this plan has run up against great difficulties in connection with the attacks, especially of late, against the policies of Ngo ~~Diem~~ Dinh Diem on the part of local business circles and religious sects.

Religious sects play a large role in the political life of South Vietnam since a significant portion of the population is under their influence. Thus, the "Kao-Dai" sect numbers about 2.5 million adherents and the "Hoa-Mao" sect up to 1 million. The "Binh-Ksyuen" sect has nothing in common with religion - its members are persons connected with the criminal underworld - but nevertheless it also plays a definite role in political life.

Along with this, the influence of the religious sects is not determined so much by the number of their followers as by the large armed detachments at the disposal of the sects. Thus, ~~up~~ there are up to 25 thousand men in the detachments of the ~~Hox~~ "Kao-Dai" sect and 20 thousand men in those of the "Hoa-Mao" sect. The French colonizers assisted in the formation of these detachments in order to use them against the national liberation movement in the country. They were the ones who, for the purpose of encouraging the activities of the sects, transferred to their control large regions of the country, where they gather taxes and issue judgements and punishments to the population. At the behest of Bao Dai the police service in Saigon and its suburbs was ~~fix~~ given over to the "Binh-Ksyuen" sect; along with this the leader of the sect was given as a reward the right to run the gambling

houses and brothels.

The activity of the religious sects began to be especially actively supported by the French colonizers after Ngo Dinh Diem began clearing pro-French soldiers and officers out of the South Vietnam army and at the recommendation of his American advisers decided in 1955 to liquidate the armed detachments of the sects in order to limit French influence even further.

This decision aroused the sharp opposition of the sects, which united in the struggle against the Ngo Dinh Diem government in a "United Front of Nationalist Forces", began armed actions against the government, and in the second half of March 1955 issued an ultimatum to Ngo Dinh Diem demanding that he change the composition of the government so that they should have the right of taking part in the administration of the state.

By the beginning of April 1955 the situation in South Vietnam had become especially strained. The Ngo Dinh Diem government and the leaders of the religious sects drew up large armed detachments in the neighborhood of Saigon. The small military units of the French expeditionary force were reinforced. The American aircraft carrier *W* "Windham Bay" arrived in Saigon.

Powerful skirmishes broke out on the streets of Saigon and Sho-Lon with artillery, *howitzer*, and rifle fire. On the 28th of April alone 1 thousand people were killed in Saigon and 20 thousand inhabitants were wounded.

The army of Ngo Dinh Diem was superior to the detachments of the sects, the more so since around the first of April the sect "Kao-Dai" broke away from the United Front and went over to the side of Ngo Dinh Diem. Nevertheless, the government forces could not obtain complete victory over the sects' armed detachments.

In April 1955 American circles exerted pressure on the ~~fr~~ French powers in South Vietnam to force them to cease their support of the sects and aid the strengthening of the Ngo Dinh Diem government. As a result of this, as the newspaper "Humanité" reported at the beginning of April, the French

Chief of Staff General Ely was obliged to recommend to the sect leaders that they lift the blockade of Saigon temporarily.

Along with this, beginning in April 1955 the contradictions in the governing circles of South Vietnam became sharper, reflecting both the struggle with the religious sects and the struggle of the French and American monopolistic circles for influence in South Vietnam.

In October 1955 the political discords between the head of the South Vietnam government Bao Dai and the prime minister Ngo Dinh Diem became greater.

The Ngo Dinh Diem government began a widespread campaign against the fulfilling of the Geneva agreements on the unification of the ~~xxxx~~ country, on the complete evacuation of the French expeditionary force from South Vietnam, and ^{on} ~~for~~ the strengthening of ties with the USA. Simultaneously it arrived at the decision to hold a referendum on 23 October for the purpose of removing Bao Dai from the post of head of state and replacing him with Ngo Dinh Diem.

In response to this Bao Dai (in France) by a decree dated 18 October relieved Ngo Dinh Diem of the duties of prime minister and deprived him of all his powers.

Along with this the "referendum" was held in an atmosphere of police repression and, as it developed from the communiques of the France Press agency, the French government decided to look on prime minister Ngo Dinh Diem as "head of state" from then on.

The situation which has come about in South Vietnam is obviously incompatible with the decisions of the Geneva Conference which were ^u ~~made public~~ ^{set forth} in the final declaration and it does not aid the political settlement for which the Vietnamese people ^{are} ~~is~~ waiting.

The civil strife in the south of the ~~xxxx~~ country, the struggle for power, could not help causing the further impoverishment of the people, since the economy of South Vietnam is in an ever greater decline.

The enterprises of Vietnamese ~~enterprises~~ entrepreneurs are closing down,

since they cannot compete with foreign importers, unemployment is increasing, active recruiting ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of workers and peasants for the army under formation is being carried on, and strikes are occurring more and more frequently. In Saigon alone in December 1954 the workers of 34 enterprises struck in defense of their rights to work and wages.

One should add to this that if the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is observing the conditions of the Geneva Conference precisely and unwaveringly, the governmental organs in the South are systematically violating them. Thus, at the time when the People's Army of Democratic Vietnam handed over all its prisoners of war to the opposite side, a great number of prisoners of war, party workers, and political prisoners were held until the first of 1955 in South Vietnam on Pulo-Kondor island, in Saigon, and in the Shi-Hoa region.

In spite of the Geneva agreements the French powers have made a number of ~~attempts~~ attempts to dismantle the equipment and carry off the belongings of the enterprises located in the Haiphong zone, which was liberated by them in 1955. These ~~attempts~~ attempts ran up against the resistance of the workers and clerks. Only a strike of 10 thousand workers of the coal mine in Kam-Pha averted the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ dismantling of the equipment of the mine, and the vigilance of the workers of the Vyon-Hoa hospital and the railroad in Haiphong prevented the carrying off of the property and an end to their jobs.

* * *

Ten years have passed since the people of Vietnam set out on the road of democratic development, on the road of struggle for national independence and the economic and cultural rehabilitation of the country.

This struggle has been crowned with glorious victories which have invariably met with the sympathy of all of progressive humanity.

The clarity and nobility of the aims of the policies of national independence

and the democratization of the country which have been carried out by the Workers' Party, the National Front of Lien-Viet, and the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the unity of the peace-loving Vietnamese people and the successful execution of a number ~~many~~ of democratic reforms ensured the victory of the Vietnamese people in the prolonged War of Resistance against the French colonizers and the strengthening of Democratic Vietnam. The industrious and talented people of Vietnam ~~have~~ achieved great success in peaceful construction after the ending of the war.

More than once have foreign and domestic reactionary circles attempted to hinder the Vietnamese people in the struggle for ^{their} own happiness and to foist off the rule of the feudal landowners and foreign invaders on ^{them} anew.

But it is impossible to turn back the wheel of history. The freedom-loving people of Vietnam, under the guidance of the Workers' Party, is fully resolved to defend the cause of peace and achieve the unification of the country, which is temporarily divided into two parts.